

成長チートで
なんでもできるようになったが、
無職だけは
辞められないようです

時野洋輔 Yousuke Tokino

Illustration : ちり

2



I've Became Able to Do Anything with My
Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of
Being Jobless

Arc 3 - Marina Arc

by Yousuke Tokino

[Novel Updates](#)

Translator: [TseirpTranslations](#)

Epub : [TrolloWN/LN EPUB](#)

(054) Prologue

Respecting Carol's opinion, I decided to head toward Dakyat via Mount Gomaki.

Apparently, there's Koshmar-sama's Goddess statue in Mount Gomaki so I must take the chance to ask her for information about Miri.

Since I couldn't get any information from Torerul-sama due to her playing hooky.

First of all, we aimed for the church for the sake of changing Carol's job to Peddler.

Although for me, the place to change job would be Hello Work instead. Well, similar to a certain famous game, it would be common sense to have your job changed in a temple. *(TL: Hello Work is the Japanese Government employment service center for the unemployed to find jobs.)*

Incidentally, the church was as I had expected, a large building with stained glass and a cross on top of the roof.

Hmm, how curious.

"By the way, the church's coat of arms, where did it originate from?"

On Earth, the cross was propagated as the punishment tool used during Jesus Christ's execution.

Is there a similar anecdote in this world as well?

“The cross ...”

Haru spoke. Looks like it is also referred to as a cross in this world too.

“The cross signifies all the people who live in the 4 continents as well as the land where all 4 races meet.”

She said. Four continents huh. So there are 4 continents in this world. Although, there might be continents that have not been discovered by mankind. I can understand the talk about the 4 continents but what does she mean by the 4 races?

I tried asking,

“Hume, Mini hume, Dwarf, Giants.”

and Haru answered immediately. Seems like it is common knowledge.

So dwarves and giants exist in this world as well huh.

Giant warriors would most probably be strong.

“Are beastmen not included?”

“During the inception of the church, beastmen and elves believed in Spirits instead of the Goddesses so they were not included in the 4 races.”

For the time being, while I felt relieved that the origin of the cross was not something lightly thought up, I asked about a certain mark.

“What about this mark?”

A star mark ... a five-pointed star was drawn on the sign at the church entrance.

There were two stars.

“The jobs that can be changed into is decided according to the race and level of the church’s priest-sama. A star mark signifies that the priest-sama is a hume and 2 stars signify that he is capable of changing job to the extent of Swordsman or Magician.”

“So it’s not like you can change your job into any of your possible job choices huh.”

“Yes. For example, for my Beast Swordsman, only Beastman Priest are able to confer the job change. The Beastman Priest mark is a circular mark. Only Beastman Priest with 3 circular marks and above are able to confer the job change to Beast Swordsman.”

The greater the number of marks, the greater the required donation (essentially the price).

Two stars was roughly 1000 sense. So it’s 100000 yen huh.

Changing job sure is costly too.

Incidentally, it cost merely 100 sense to change job from Jobless to Commoner and from Commoner to any other job.

Which is why this time, it was settled with just 100 sense.

“Is it alright for us to enter the church as well if Carol is the only one changing job?”

“Yes, normally, there are people praying inside the church as well so anybody can enter.”

The style that doesn't deny anybody who comes over huh.

If that's the case, I won't reserve myself and try entering.

Since I have faith in Goddess-sama as well.

The interior of the church looked like those churches used for weddings.

There was a path directly in the center with long benches to both sides.

The difference would be the 4 Goddess statues to the left and right as well as the 2 Goddess statues directly in front.

The one that immediately caught my attention was Koshmar-sama's Goddess statue on the left. It was clearly larger compared to the other Goddess statues.
(TL: Originally I thought that was because her statue was made to be larger than the others but then I realised ... Koshmar is a plump orc Goddess xD)

The twin-tailed Torerul-sama's Goddess statue and another bob-cut child Goddess statue was on the right.

Next to Koshmar-sama was a thin Goddess with sunken cheeks.

At the front were a beautiful and bewitching Goddess statue and a Valkyrie-like Goddess statue valiantly poised with her sword drawn.

There were some people giving their prayers on the long benches.

"There would be even more people on rest days. In the evenings, the choir dedicates songs as training so a large number of people come to listen."

Carol commented and followed up on the topic of the church. By no means was it because I was thinking "The church has comparatively few people.", did it show on my face?

Hmm?

An affluent-like man came out from the back room.

If I remember correctly, that man should be the Philanderer we passed by yesterday.

However, today he had become an Armor Merchant.

I see, so he became a Philanderer for the sake of increasing his luck to play in the gambling parlor but has now returned to being an Armor Merchant.

But, an Armor Merchant instead of a regular Merchant huh.

The day before yesterday, the shopkeeper at the weapons shop was an Apprentice Blacksmith but judging from this guy, there might be Weapon Merchants who specialize in selling weapons as well?

... I wonder what is the skill for merchants specialized in selling weapons?

Weapon Appraisal?

If that's the case, then Armor Merchants would have Armor Appraisal?

The Armor Merchant lowered his head and left the church.

With that smile on his face, perhaps he won in the gambling parlor?

Well, it's completely my own speculation that he went to the gambling parlor and he's a total stranger anyway.

In the first place, my ability to see other people's job is a secret.

“Is the job change performed in that room?”

“Yes, we’re lucky. The usual waiting time is more than an hour.”

I was unsure if what Carol said was a follow-up to the church or that it was really lucky.

“Erm, Ichino-sama.”

Carol called my name. I felt like I might forget that my original name is Ichinosuke if Carol continued to call me Ichinojo-sama so I asked her to shorten it to Ichino.

“Is it really alright?”

“Eh? What is?”

“To spend 100 sense on me.”

“It’s necessary expenses right? It will be easy to trade with an item bag so we’ll earn it back instantaneously.”

” ... Thank you very much. I will work hard such that Ichino-sama will not suffer any losses.”

Carol asserted with clenched fists.

I instinctively thought that she was cute.

Well, even though I say cute, it’s cuteness felt toward a little sister instead of toward a love interest.

“Would it be alright if I dedicate a prayer here toward the Goddess statue of Setolans-sama?”

“Yes, it’s okay.”

I willingly agreed to Haru’s request. Setolans should be the Goddess of Battle and Victory if I remember correctly.

The Goddess-sama that Haru has faith in and acknowledges.

“Me too, could I pray to the Goddess statue of Torerul-sama later?”

Because Haru asked to devote a prayer to utilize the free time, Carol looked slightly troubled when she asked.

Did she think that the time for her to pray would be consumed?

She most likely intends to dedicate a prayer to Torerul-sama because she thinks that it was Torerul-sama who changed her job instead of me. Since I lied to her.

I’ll have to properly explain to her when the opportunity arises.

Including my 「Second Job Setting II」 skill as well.

“Sure, let’s both pray to Torerul-sama’s Goddess statue together. Since I was in her care as well.”

I told Carol that and the 2 of us headed toward the back room.

That room, was a room with nothing in it.

It was a room with only a table sandwiched by 2 chairs.

And, sitting on the chair at the back ... was a grandpa.

【Priest Lv19】

Ah, he's really a Priest.

I examined his job to confirm.

“Welcome. Could the individual who intends to change job sit there?”

Carol replied “Yes” and nodded, sat on the chair and took out 1 silver coin.

Apparently, the convention was to state your own name and job as well as the job you wish to change to.

It seems like during that time, you can't get up from the chair or move about.

The chair Carol sat on was fixed to the spot and looking closely, there were fine characters written compactly on the floor around the chair.

It was not written in the common language of this world and naturally, it was not in Japanese or English.

I heard that jobs could only be changed at an appointed location but it seems like the secret lies in these characters.

“I'm Carol of Commoner job. I'm here to apply to become a Peddler.”

“Very well ... Child of God Carol, may your way of life change.”

The instant the Priest uttered those words, the characters on the floor released blue light.

It lasted for only a short 10 seconds.

The moment I registered that the light had disappeared ... the procedure was

already over.

The Priest took out a piece of paper and wrote down Carol's name and job.

"This will serve as your certificate of becoming a Peddler. Do bring this certificate along when you intend to change your job again."

"Thank you very much."

Receiving the Peddler certificate, Carol stood up and gave her thanks.

That's all?

A hundred sense just for that. It sure is lucrative being a Priest.

Since it would cost 1000 sense for that Philanderer just now to change into an Armor Merchant.

This grandpa earned 110000 yen in just over 2 minutes. *(TL: 1100 USD)*

Though, it might be considerably hard to become a Priest.

When we left the room, Haru was praying to the Goddess statue of Setolans.

It looked like she was concentrating so to not interrupt her, we quietly went to Torerul-sama's Goddess statue and prayed.

※ ※ ※

The Goddess statue was being prayed to.

However, the 2 Goddesses who the statues were modeled after were baffled at the moment.

They were currently looking at a young girl in sailor uniform (winter uniform) climb Mount Fuji.

Her name was Kusunoki Miri. Kusunoki Ichinosuke's younger sister.

"It looks like it's going to become something troublesome."

Koshmar sighed. She knew that the girl was definitely going to arrive here soon.

She foresaw that the girl would come and appear in front of her.

"... I recall ... about that incident 1300 years ago. When we first met that girl."

"The pitiful young girl who threw herself into the crater of Mount Fuji ... what's even more pitiful was that perhaps because she came to Otherworld and lost the significance of her human sacrifice, the people were wrapped up in the eruption of Mount Fuji."

"That case was just reaping what they sow. That is karma for using another's life to save their own lives."

"Torerul is so harsh. So unimaginable from the Goddess-sama of laziness."

"I may be lazy but I do not teach humans to be lazy. Since if humans don't work, our Goddesses work will increase."

"I bet."

Even though they said that, Koshmar once again leaked a sigh at the impending work that was clearly going to increase.

"We should tell the other Goddesses. That we'll deal with that child."

"I can't go back?"

"Of course not."

To the words of the Goddess of Laziness, Koshmar leaked a sigh the 3rd time and closed her eyes.

The time that flows in that world and in Otherworld is different.

There are times when it is faster and times when it is slower.

Currently, the flow in Earth is slow and the flow in Otherworld is fast.

It would still be several hours later before she once again throws herself into Mount Fuji's crater.

However, in Otherworld's time, it will be a couple of days later.

How will the world move when she once again descends onto Otherworld.

It's said that only God knows but even the Goddesses also do not know.

(055) Carol's Business Technique

Carol who has officially taken her first step as a Peddler immediately visited a trade and commerce shop together with me.

Incidentally, I had Haru arrange for a carriage. I passed her a Rare Medal and asked her to exchange it for gold to purchase a carriage.

Haru was at a loss initially because slaves are usually not entrusted such a large sum of gold but I requested it of her after saying that I have complete trust in Haru.

For that reason, I was now only with Carol.

Regardless of she being a daughter of a peddler, her opponent was a veteran trade merchant.

There was a possibility that she might be cheated if I left it all to Carol.

“What can be sold highly in Dakyat?”

“Let me see. Typically, it is said that salt can be sold for a high price in Dakyat. Because although Dakyat use it to salt and dry meat to preserve it, they are a distance away from the sea and the amount of rock salt they mine is not that significant. The salt from the salt lake to the east of this town can be sold for a high price.”

Salt trade huh. I heard that it was a trade done around the time of the Age of Explorations.

It's true that salt is a valuable item for inland regions so maybe we should carry salt? But ...

“No, we should abandon salt and go with spice instead.”

“Why?”

“The dry season this year came earlier than previous years so the majority of the trade merchants have already carried salt to Dakyat. However, the dismantling of monster meat for salting has been decided to be done after the horse chasing festival 2 weeks later so due to the situation of surplus of salt in the Dakyat trade warehouses this coming 2 weeks, the most we could do if we carry salt to sell would be to sell it for a cheap price. Conversely, due to the high amount of traders carrying salt during this time, the amount of usually transported spices decreases but the demand for spice is high due to the large amount of spices required for roasting during the horse chasing festival.”

Carol continued her explanation.

I marvelled at her explanation.

Spice was even more relevant in the Age of Exploration. Similar to the East India Company.

“Young lady sure is knowledgeable. That is correct. If you go to sell salt now it would only amount to your travelling expenses. Would pepper and red peppers be alright?”

The trade shop aunt who listened together to Carol’s explanation spoke.

“Yes. Would that be alright, Ichino-sama?”

Of course ... or rather, I honestly don’t know if it is the right choice or not.

“How much do you intend to buy?”

I told Carol the gold I had in possession.

About 70000 sense.

So, I told her to would use up to 60000 sense for trading.

Judging by this situation, it looked like we would be purchasing all the spices.

Or so I thought but,

“What is the maximum recommended amount for an individual?”

“Five Danni barrels, 25800 sense.”

“We’ll have that, please. I would also like to purchase iron with the remaining 34200 sense.”

“Would you like ingots? Or ores?”

“Ores, please. I would like to see the contents, though.”

“You have quite a good horse carriage. Coming right up.”

The aunt ordered her subordinate to carry a box of iron ore over.

While examining the iron ores, the aunt presented the price.

“How about 28700 sense for 7 Aigle boxes? I don’t have many of them in stock.”

“I’ve heard reports of the discovery of a new ore vein in the iron mine to the west. You might not have much in stock right now but won’t your warehouses be stocked to the brim from that iron mine?”

“You’ve got me. To think you’ve researched to that extent. How about 28000

sense for 7 boxes?”

“45000 sense in total please.”

“45000 sense ... that’s way too cheap no matter what you say.”

“I’ve heard that the iron ores from the new vein have much higher purity compared to the iron ores in stock right now. If that’s the case, won’t the iron ores in stock remain dormant in the warehouse if things don’t go well? It would be more advantageous to sell it here.”

” ... I give up. But 50000 sense in total is my limit. End.”

The aunt said as if giving up.

54500 sense became 50000 sense.

4500 sense ... it became cheaper by 450000 yen just in this short amount of time.

Carol asked if this was okay? and I silently nodded.

I passed 5 gold coins to Carol.

I thought that the transaction was over but that was not all.

We had to confirm the quality of the spices and the capacity of the barrels as well as whether there were mere stones mixed in within the iron ores.

Incidentally, I asked about everything I didn’t know.

Apparently, she heard of the iron ore information last week when she was shopping. She told me that mini hume is a race that specialises in information gathering due to their excellent hearing and she fully inherited that blood. Incidentally, I was amazed when she told me that the information regarding the purity of the iron ores was something she made up on the spot.

Danni barrels and Aigle boxes were the names of the barrel and boxes. They were standardized products so the capacity can be determined that way.

The maximum recommended amount for an individual was the weight allowed for an individual Peddler to purchase. Hoarding behaviour is allowed but you would be glared at by the other peddlers so it is said to be a recommendation.

The reason for buying iron was because iron is required for the production of weapons and armor due to the continued skirmishes by Dakyat and carrying iron ores instead of ingots is because the iron-making technology in Dakyat was more advanced so selling iron ores would be more profitable.

However, due to cheap price that does not justify the heavy weight due to the impurities contained within iron ores, iron ores are seldom transported other than by large caravans. It seems like she chose to go with iron ores due to my item bag.

The word “End” that the aunt said was a declaration of intent that she would absolutely not lower the price any further no matter what so saying that was equivalent to pressing the peddler as to buy or not buy at that price.

By the way, there was apparently slightly more room for negotiations for the price of the spices but she focused on only the iron ores and did not pursue the spices because her parents taught her that a skilled peddler may point out all the fine details but it was the typical model of a despised peddler.

I was in awe.

I had intended to support Carol but not only was there completely no need for it, I just merely stood there.

I ended up thinking that it might have been better if I just followed Haru

instead.

After all the prepared barrels and boxes were carried to the back of the shop, I stored them in my item bag after checking that no one was looking.

It took longer than expected so Haru should have finished buying the carriage.

With this rhythm, it might have been better to leave it to Carol to buy the carriage too. If it's her, she might be able to buy the carriage at a cheap price.

While thinking that, we headed toward the stables to the west of town.

Then ... what we saw there was an extremely splendid horse carriage.

Haru was brushing the white horse that was pulling that carriage.

According to Carol, 1 Rare Medal was 30000 sense.

If 30000 sense is used to buy a horse carriage and a horse, she said that it would be a horse carriage that would barely sit 3 people.

We planned that Haru and I would take turns to sit at the coachman seat and there would not be a need to load the goods so we thought that it would be more than enough space but, the carriage there was large enough to seat 10 people and the white horse was a fine horse.

In other words, it was obvious that this carriage was not our carriage.

“Master, thank you for waiting.”

“Haru, have you bought the carriage.”

“Yes. It is this carriage.”

Apparently, this carriage was our carriage.

Eh?

“Oh, are you Haurvatat-san’s master?”

The person who came and said that was a 【Monster Handler Lv8】 man.

I see, horses are more or less monsters as well. It is a suitable occupation for a ranch owner.

“Yes, erm about this carriage ...”

“Excuse me. This white horse is an unruly horse of this ranch and I had thought that it would never become attached to anybody and I would have no choice but to slaughter it. However, as soon as Haurvatat-san came, this white horse lowered its head in submission. Even I was moved by that appearance.”

” ... I see.”

“Furthermore, Haurvatat is not a Monster Handler. In other words, this white horse instinctively recognized Haurvatat-sama as its master. I think this is fate so I decided to give this horse to Haurvatat-san.”

” ... I see.”

I have realised that all I’ve been saying since a while ago was “I see.”

“I heard that you were looking for a horse carriage as well so I had my acquaintance prepare a suitable carriage for this horse.”

It seems like because the budget for the horse was lifted, the carriage became quite considerably splendid. Moreover, to have requested it from an acquaintance's shop meant that friendship discount has been applied as well.

While brushing the horse, Haru asked "Master, how should we name this horse?"

I'm feeling dejected.

My companions are too excellent until I have no place to shine.

In addition to that ... I do not want to control such a large horse. As a person who was kicked by a horse and died.

But ... looking at Haru wagging her tail as she brushed the horse, I have no choice but to buy it. Furthermore, it's not likely that I will die if I get kicked by a horse with my current stats.

" ... Er, we'll think of its name gradually, well done, Haru."

I praised Haru with an awkward smile.

(056) The Beginnings of Alchemy

After stocking up on food, as the last task, we once again went to the Adventurers Guild and finished registering Carol into the party before we left the town.

When we were exiting the town, the gatekeeper man smiled when he saw Carol and Carol replied with a smile.

Come to think of it, that man also worried about Carol.

Incidentally, I left the task of handling the horse to Haru.

I tried sitting in the coachman seat to handle the horse but it totally did not listen to my words at all.

At that point in time, Haru came and the horse grudgingly listened to my instructions but I could feel that it felt really unwilling to follow my instructions so I left the role of coachman to Haru.

I could tell that it had recognized Haru as its master but it did not recognize me as its master.

I don't know if it felt sympathy to one with the same white hair or if it is merely a lewd horse.

Shall I become a Monster Handler and forcefully train it?

I ended up thinking that way.

“By the way, how do one become a Monster Handler?”

“For Monster Handler, you have to become a Whip-user after reaching Farmer Lv5 and then you can become a Monster Handler at Whip-user Lv20.”

Carol taught me.

“I see, now that I think of it, even though Elise was a Whip-user, she identified herself as a Monster Handler.”

Maybe that held the meaning that she would become a Monster Handler in the future.

“Do you know of any other jobs that can be obtained by being a Farmer?”

“Angler, Harvester, Cook, and Sickle-user. Also, it is said that a person with Farmer Lv20 and Earth Magician Lv20 will be able to become a Grass Magician.”

“Earth Magician?”

“Apparently, after becoming Magician Lv50, one would be able to become a Magician of either of the four attributes fire, wind, water, and earth.”

“Ooo, I see. It’s because my Magician level is low ... I have to increase my level.”

My Magician level is still only 13 so I have to raise it up by another 37.

“Incidentally, what is Ichino-sama’s job? You can use magic, you can fight with your bare hands and you can fight with a sword too. But in the Adventurers Guild, the party setting was left to Haru-san so you are not an adventurer?”

“Yeah ... well, there’s various reasons and it’s confusing but ... that’s right, seeing is believing. You’ll just be confused when you see it but you can view my

status if you want?”

Carol thanked me for giving my permission and said “Status open, Ichinojo.”

My status was most likely displayed in her eyes.

“Wha ... what is this, Ichino-sama, this status. Furthermore, I can’t see your job.”

“It’s not that you can’t see it, it’s nothing. I don’t have a job, in other words, Jobless. Though I say that, while I am Jobless, I am currently also a Swordsman, a Pugilist, an Apprentice Blacksmith and a Hunter at the same time. My high Luck stat is due to that reason as well.”

” ... Eh? Master, this is my first time hearing this.”

While sitting in the coachman seat, Haru’s ears were twitching and she was looking here over her shoulder.

“Eh? Didn’t I tell Haru?”

“Yes, you did not.”

I see, I was sure I’ve told her though.

Did I only tell her that I obtained skills from Jobless?

“Sorry. In that case, it’s that kind of thing. I have been told by Goddess-sama to only tell this to those I trust so don’t tell it to anyone else.”

“By Go, Goddess-sama? I understand.”

“Understood.”

Carol and Haru nodded.

“Also. Haru and Carol, I’ve learnt a new Jobless skill. I am able to set another job for both of you but what would you like?”

“”Eh!?””

The carriage came to an abrupt stop. The ero horse neighed due to the suddenly drawn in reins.

“Erm, is it something worthy of such surprise? I have 5 jobs so a 2nd job isn’t that particularly noteworthy?”

“Erm, master, I don’t think that’s the problem.”

“Then I won’t set it? The 2nd job.”

“Er ... Please make me a Lumberjack. I wish to raise my status by becoming a Pugilist.”

“Alright.”

I mentally recited to make Haru’s second job into Lumberjack.

“How is it?”

“I’ll check. Status open ... amazing ... it’s amazing, master, my job has really become 2.”

“Let’s see, status open, Haurvatat.”

Name:	Haurvatat	Race:	White Wolf
Job:	Beast Swordsman Lv7		
HP:	131/149 (18↑)	MP:	34/39 (5↑)
Phy Atk:	133 (10↑)	Phy Def:	128 (14↑)
Mag Atk:	9 (9↑)	Mag Def:	74 (13↑)

Speed: 300 (5↑) Luck: 30 (10↑)

【Equipment】

Slave Collar Fire Dragon Fang Short Sword Silk Dress
Leather Shoes Wind Brooch

【Skills】

「Stone Throw」 「Bow Equip」 「Dismantling」 「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」
「Rotational Slash II」 「Bow and Arrow Equip」 「Swordsmanship
Strengthening (Small)」 「Speed UP (Minor)」 「Dual Wield」 「Experience Point
Distribution」 「Olfactory Strengthening」 「Forgery Appraisal」

【Acquired Titles】

「Labyrinth Conqueror II」 「Party Leader」

【Possible Job Changes】

Commoner Lv15	Farmer Lv1	Hunter Lv5	Lumberjack Lv1
Apprentice Swordsman Lv25	Swordsman Lv23	Beast Swordsman Lv7	

Eh?

I can only see 1 job. But, her Magic Attack stat that should be 0 have increased to 9 and her Luck stat has increased to 30.

Which means, including those in her party, other people can’t see her second job.

That sure is useful in concealing it.

“What about Carol?”

“Erm ... Ichino-sama?”

“What’s wrong?”

“Ichino-sama can assign jobs as you like?”

“Yeah, so?”

“If that’s the case ... perhaps the person who changed Carol’s Temptress job

to Commoner was not Torerul-sama but Ichino-sama?”

Flinch!?

Ah, that’s right.

I’ve not told Carol about that as well.

“Erm, well, that’s right. This is also a Jobless skill and Koshmar-sama told me to keep quiet about it.”

” ... Ca ... Carol had thought maybe that was the case. At that time, the thing that Ichino-sama put on me was the Friendship ring. After putting that on, Carol’s job was changed and Carol saw Ichino-sama’s fighting style that surpasses the boundaries of your job ... and ... and ...”

“He, hey, Carol?”

“Carol is very happy to have followed Ichino-sama!”

“I am also very happy to be together with master.”

Ah, well, yup.

I am also super happy but it is kind of embarrassing to say it face-to-face like this.

In the end, Carol’s second job became Apprentice Magician.

Apparently, she wants to become an Apprentice Alchemist and learn Ore Appraisal.

“Come to think of it, I am able to use alchemy ... would it be more profitable if I converted the iron ores into iron ingots?”

“Yes, because it is troublesome as it consumes a lot of MP. If it is a Lv5 Apprentice Alchemist that is able to make iron from iron ores, he would be

barely able to manufacture 3 iron ores into iron in 1 day but ... it seems to me that master would be able to convert a larger amount of iron.”

“I guess. I’ll give it a try ...”

I took out the box of iron ores from my item bag and placed it down.

For a moment, I felt that the horse carriage speed slowed down but it quickly returned to the original speed.

Opening the lid, I looked at the iron ores within.

They were red stones. I most probably won’t pick them up if they were on the ground.

“Would there be any penalty if a person not from the Alchemist Guild does iron manufacturing work?”

“There won’t be. The Alchemist Guild functions by providing a stable supply of ores and catalysts and by purchasing refined metal. You will have to enter the Alchemist Guild to receive those benefits. But, even if you don’t use alchemy to make pure iron, it is still possible to make it.”

Is that so? I thought but then I changed my mind.

Iron smelting work of iron ores has been around since 5000 years ago on Earth.

Smelting can be done even without relying on skills.

If that’s the case, I’ll give it a try.

I changed my jobs to the magic-specialised jobs Apprentice Magician, Magician, and Apprentice Alchemist.

Alchemy: Production-series skill 【Apprentice Alchemist Lv2】

Using magical power, ores can be made into metal and metals can be joined into alloys.

To view the metals that you can create, chant “Recipe open”.

Incidentally, I muttered recipe open and verified the recipes I had but there were 20 types of metal that I could make.

Within that was the method to make iron from iron ores.

I didn’t know the way to make steel. If I remember correctly, steel is an alloy of carbon and iron.

Charcoal can be easily prepared so I wish to make steel when my alchemy level increases.

It was a skill that didn’t tell you how to use it in the description but I understood the way to use it when I acquired it.

I extracted an iron ore from the box, grasped it with my left hand and loaded magical power into it.

Upon doing so ...something began gathering on the surface of the iron ore and began to spill out like sand.

These should be the impurities.

But, even after removing the impurities, it was still red.

It is called hematite, due to its state of containing oxygen atoms.

However, by further channelling magical power, the oxygen was continually removed and it gradually changed colour to the dull metallic colour.

It consumed 20 MP to reach this point and about 3 minutes had passed.

Then ...

【Ichinojo Level up】

Apprentice Alchemist accumulate experience points by using alchemy.

I grow at 400 times the speed, it was the same as making iron from 400 iron ores so it's no wonder that my level went up.

My level was raised by 2.

The iron created from the iron ore was not in the form of a bar or a plate but an iron ball.

It was somewhat lighter compared to when it was an iron ore.

“How is it, is it something like this?”

“It's amazing, usually, an Alchemist might take about 10 minutes to make pure iron from an iron ore of that size.”

I'm not an Alchemist but an Apprentice Alchemist though.

“The speed of alchemy is most likely dependent on Magic Attack. That probably had an influence on it.”

Carol was surprised.

I felt somewhat proud. Though it was a mere gift from Jobless cheat.

I began work on changing another iron ore into iron as the horse carriage rocked.

Side Story

Due to 80% of Dakyat's national land consisting of grassland terrain, animal husbandry was flourishing from the grazing.

What's surprising is that 90% of all the citizens are nomads.

Because of that, there are few places which can be called a town in Dakyat.

There's only the 2 border towns as well as the capital – Ferruit. *(TL: It's a single character away from Ferrite xD)*

The skirmishes with the neighbouring country of Korat continued but 2.8km around the vicinity of the Sadness river that flows along the border, citizens lived in peace.

However, there was a group that didn't think well of that peace.

Secret Society Massacre. The organization that holds the names of the most brutal and cruel criminals in Dakyat's history.

That Massacre's leader, Julio, convened the constituent members and gave a speech.

"The trifling peace given to us ... in order to maintain that, for the long time of a couple of centuries, we have continued to war with the neighbouring country Korat. There are those that most likely feel grief and sadness for not being able to win. There may be those that find honour in not losing. But, we know. We are aware. The country is afraid of winning the war. Dakyat, by creating a national common enemy, the government is trying to cover up and hide the multiple blunders, corruption, and wrongdoings. All discontent is directed at the imaginary enemy Korat ... that's right, Korat is not the enemy, it is an imaginary enemy created by the country! All sins were smeared onto the imaginary

enemy country Korat and the country's leaders are enjoying the height of luxury using the tax collected from citizens for the sake of war funds."

When Julio clenched his fist and slammed the table, one of the constituent member raised his hand.

"What do you mean by the height of luxury?"

" ... Women. Women, alcohol, and meat. Meat cooked with plenty of pepper. Pepper until it overflowed from the iron plates!"

The constituent members raised their voices "Ooooo!" to Julio's explanation.

Pepper is by no means an expensive item but it is also not something cheap enough to be used every day.

"Either way! We must bring the iron hammer down onto the rotten government!"

When Julio raised his fist, the constituent members raised their voices "Ooooo!"

At that time.

"Oi, what are you doing in my warehouse, you rascals!"

Because the mood was too elated, the sounds leaked outside.

Thereupon, as if baby spiders, the 13, 14-year-old children scattered from the warehouse with Julio in the lead.

“How was it, Sutchino, today’s speech was quite good right?”

“Yeah, it was the best, Julio. By the way, have you heard? It seems like Narbe-san was caught. At Florence to the north.”

“Uncle Narbe-san?”

Narbe was Julio’s father’s younger brother and he was exiled from the country due to thieving acts 12 years ago.

After that, he became a Bandit and they heard that he wandered various lands.

To Julio, Narbe was exiled when he was 3 years old and before that, he did not show his face at Julio’s father’s place so Julio and Narbe were not acquainted but he thought of him as a defeated hero that rebelled against the rotten country. *(TL: Narbe’s most likely the bandit boss Ichinojo and Haru met in the Beginner’s Labyrinth)*

“Apparently, he was caught by a man called Ichinojo and a girl called Haurvatat.”

“Ichinojo and Haurvatat huh ... unforgivable. To put their hands on our hero.”

For the time being, the 2 of them ran away.

Their organization’s name is the Secret Society Massacre.

A famous delinquent group that everybody in Ferruit town knows about.

(057) Night in Gomaki Village

For me who do not get carsick since young, the side job(alchemy) I had inside the horse carriage was just nice to kill time.

The iron ores turned into iron balls one after the other accompanied by the rise of my Apprentice Alchemist level.

Now I was level 14.

When Apprentice Alchemist reached level 10, I learnt the 「Metal Appraisal」 skill.

The 「Metal Appraisal」 skill also seemed to apply to weapons and armours as well as manufactured equipment so,

【Steel: Alloy of iron and carbon. Produced by an intermediate level alchemist.】

was displayed when I looked at my steel sword. Also, my recipes increased by 5.

I asked to look at the Fire Dragon Fang sword but it could not be appraised due to it not being made of metal and looking at the short sword told me that it was made with iron.

Incidentally, the goblin sword seems to be made of a special metal called goblin iron.

“It’s a magic metal. It seems that metals that continued to bathe in the blood of numerous monsters will mutate. But, those metals rarely appear and the

majority of the magic metal in circulation in the world are dropped by monsters within labyrinths. Apparently, if one raises their Alchemist level, they would be able to combine magic metals to create new magic metals. It's called magic alloy."

"Oh, Carol sure is knowledgeable ... then, is goblin iron a valuable iron?"

"No, the goblin iron rod dropped by hobgoblins is completely made of goblin iron so it is not valuable. It's said that it is slightly weaker compared to regular iron so pure iron has more value."

" ... Ah, I see."

That's a shame.

My MP has dropped below half so I'll take a rest for now.

I can't do practice swings in the horse carriage and MP is required to increase my magic proficiency.

"It'll be great if there are medicine that can easily recover MP."

"Mana potions are completely bought out so they are extremely valuable."

Nobles and rich people buy up mana potions.

Since by using mana potions, they would be able to use magic and raise their levels.

Therefore apparently, many first rate Magicians, Practitioners, and Alchemists are sons of rich people.

"Bought out huh ... it's not good to buy out everything."

I muttered and Haru, while seated at the coachman seat, joined the conversation.

“That’s right. The Adventurer Guild do not purchase materials from people other than adventurers because Merchants bought them all up previously.”

In the past, when the Adventurers Guild wasn’t around, Merchants would individually hire adventurers and harvesters to collect herbs and monster materials.

However, the adventurers, being unaware of the market price, were taken advantage of and they sold quite cheaply.

The Adventurers Guild was established to try to protect such adventurers.

Upon doing so, the Merchants didn’t think so well of that and bought up all the items like potions required by adventurers.

The Merchants sold the items for several times the usual price but none of the adventurers bought the potions, a boycott happened.

At that time, a large outbreak of monsters happened and many adventurers died fighting those monsters.

It was said that there were many that could have been saved if there were potions.

Since then, the Adventurers Guild excluded Merchants and Herbalist that produced potions before eventually, it became such that materials were not purchased from those other than adventurers.

“Though, that was more than 300 years in the past and now, the Adventurers Guild and Herbalist Guild have a friendly relationship so it has been considerably eased. The Adventurers Guild has acquiesced to the loophole of master appointing me as a proxy to sell materials.”

Until now, I’ve only been raising the levels of my combat-based jobs but, if I’m

thinking about spending my life without battles, it would be more convenient to raise my production-based jobs instead.

At the very least, danger towards my life doesn't seem to be likely.

Ah, but Haru seems to prefer a life of combat though.

The carriage continued down the path but the gradient became slightly steeper.

Looks like we entered the mountainous path.

When living in Japan, the mountains gave the feeling of being overgrown by trees but the rocky mountain here only had grass, flowers and short trees growing with no tall trees at all.

I guess Mount Fuji would be like this too.

I recalled that once, my family had a discussion if we should go climb Mount Fuji until the 5th station but Miri was adamant about her hatred towards climbing Mount Fuji so in the end, the Mount Fuji trip was cancelled and it changed to a trip to eat eel at Hamamatsu.

Well, thinking back now, I do agree with Miri's opinion that Mount Fuji is for viewing and not for climbing but that was the first and last time I saw such a stubborn Miri.

"There is a post village ahead so let's stay over today and head for the labyrinth tomorrow."

"Ah, this is Mount Gomaki? Haru, can you see the village?"

"No, I can't see the village yet. But, we're approaching the smell of life so we

should be able to see it soon.”

“Smell of life?”

Is it different from the smell of humans?

“The smell of burning firewood, the smell of toasting bread, the scent of people living their lives.”

So it is something like that.

Haru’s nose is truly great.

Just as she described, we were able to see the village before long.

Unlike Florence or Belasra, it was a really small village apparently called the Gomaki Village with about 20 residents.

Looks like they used the name of the mountain as it is.

The national boundary of Dakyat was to the southeast, the national boundary of Korat was to the southwest, since it seems like it would take around 2 days to travel to either country, travellers and Peddlers who are aiming for either country would stay over here.

Which means, tomorrow we will be heading towards the labyrinth and returning to stay and the day after tomorrow we would likely be camping out.

At the village entrance, horse carriages were lined up in columns. Looks like it is a caravan aiming for Florence.

Since the goods were loaded on the carriages, they most likely stopped there without stopping at the stables.

There was a stable so we entrusted the horse to them.

I've still not thought of a name for the horse.

For the time being, Haru reminded the horse to not go wild and the 3 of us alighted from the horse carriage.

Incidentally, the lodging fee for horse carriage until the morning of the day after tomorrow was 10 sense and the lodging fee for horses is determined by the race of the horse, the fee for white horse ... we found out that they are called arc horse after all this time ... is 50 sense (including feed).

It was 60 sense in total, I handed over 6 bundles of 10 copper coins and received the deposit receipt.

"Nevertheless, it sure is a splendid horse. It's a huge difference from the gluttonous slow donkey this morning."

The brown-haired uncle who was looking at our white horse divulged his thoughts.

"Slow donkey?"

"Yeah, this morning an odd pair of man and woman visited and entrusted it here. Even though it was small, it was a slow donkey that really could eat well. They left the village in the afternoon but half of the straws in my stable was already eaten up. That put me at a great deficit."

It's Jofre and Elise without a doubt.

They continued their journey yesterday without staying over at the inn huh?

They sure are indescribably tough.

But, even during such a bitter journey, they would definitely still be smiling.

“By the way, did they say where they were headed to?”

“No idea, they did say that they were heading south.”

“I see.”

I had a hunch that we would meet again but looks like we would really meet them soon.

Well, we'll be spending a day here so I don't think that we would catch up to them immediately.

“By the way, are there any specialties here?”

“Yeah, the stew made of goat milk and wheat flour is exquisite. If you go to the inn, they would make you eat it even if you hate it.”

“I see, thank you very much.”

Goat milk stew.

Yup, what comes to mind during a journey would be to properly taste specialties.

Even though it's called a post village, it sure is a small village.

There was only 1 inn.

There were horses that looked like they were entrusted by others as well in the stable so there most likely would be other customers as well.

“Welcome, for 3? We can also prepare the barn for slaves, what would you like?”

The aunt called out with a smile.

Haru's slave collar was hidden by the scarf but Carol's slave collar was in full view.

I could immediately tell that the aunt didn't have any ill will. Asking that might be common practice in this world.

“No, please prepare a normal room. All of us will have the same meal too.”

“Alright. Which room would you like? A double room? Or would you like to set up beds in the large room? Unfortunately, the single rooms are filled up.”

Apparently, the double room price was 30 sense and it cost 5 sense per person in the large room. However, it seemed like there were currently 7 people using it so it was in a considerably cramped situation.

The payment for meals was separate, 7 sense for dinner and 3 sense for breakfast.

“Are we unable to have 2 double room?”

“Sorry. There is only 1 double room remaining. A large group of merchants came in.”

The caravan that stopped at their carriages at the village entrance huh.

They have assigned guards but they all won't be able to sleep in the carriages.

Well, they most likely want to sleep in a bed once in a while.

There's no choice, we borrowed the double room and headed to the room for now.

Although other people cannot use the item bag, I would be troubled if it was stolen so I carried it on my body ... well then, what to do now.

"Well then, Carol will sleep beside the bed so Haru-san and Ichino-sama please use the bed. Since Haru-san would be tired from driving the carriage for the whole day today."

"No, Carol has a smaller build so Carol should use the bed with master. I believe it will be more comfortable for master that way."

"Then, we'll take both into consideration and I'll sleep beside the bed while you 2 girls use the bed ..."

""That will not do.""

Yup, I knew they would definitely say that.

Even so, how can a guy sleep on the bed while letting a girl sleep on the floor?

"We, well, let's think about it as we eat our dinner. A good idea might pop up."

I said that and the 3 of us headed towards the canteen for dinner.

A large pot of stew was already prepared. Only a small amount of vegetables was used as ingredients and there was no meat at all.

Most likely they usually make a large portion and the remaining portion would be eaten by themselves and the villagers.

However, she mentioned that a large group came in today so there most likely won't be much leftover.

The stew had a very rich taste and it was more delicious compared to a stew made with cow milk but the bread that came along was so tough that it was impossible to eat it without soaking it in the stew.

Hmm, but it would be better if there was meat.

So I thought as we finished our meal and returned to our room.

And so, I realised too late that we didn't solve the problem at all.

Who should sleep on the bed?

The 2 of them preferred if only I slept on the bed and they slept on the floor, they suggested the worst solution.

To let the 2 girls sleep on the floor while the man slept on the bed, my gentleman's heart would crumble.

Even so, I have no idea how to suggest that I sleep on the floor instead.

Actually, I have a fear of beds ... but, I've been sleeping in beds the whole time I travelled with Haru.

To order the 2 of them to sleep in the bed as their master ... I dislike having to use an order to forcibly compel them to do so.

That's right, in the first place, we shouldn't have the different position of master and slave.

“The 2 of you, would you like to stop being my slaves?”

I suggested to the 2 of them who were saying this and that.

At that instant ... their faces paled.

Carol even became full of tears.

“ ... Master, I, I intend to follow master for life. Please allow me to be beside you by any means.”

“Carol too! Carol wants to continue living together with Ichino-sama like this. Carol don’t want to separate from Ichino-sama.”

Eh, eeh!?

Shit, I said it wrongly.

“Wa, wait. When I asked if you want to stop being slaves, I only meant to remove the slave collars and instead of master and slave relationship, become companions of equal standings. I’m not asking you to leave me.”

I hastily corrected myself.

Seriously ... I summarized my words too much.

The words by the inn lady just now were the reason why I asked if they want to stop being slaves.

Until now, I still couldn’t get used to the custom of this world to deprecate slaves. To be honest, it was to the extent of feeling irritated to the words said by the aunt. Since that’s the case, I thought that it would be easier on me if I released them from slavery sooner.

Although the expressions on the 2 of them eased with my correction, in the end, they rejected my suggestion.

“I take pride in becoming master’s slave. This collar can be called my sword of loyalty. Please maintain how it is now.”

“Carol too. Carol has received a lot of happiness from Ichino-sama. I cannot remove this collar without having returned this kindness.”

Such good kids. Damn it.

This world is wrong for changing such good kids into slaves.

I want to release them from slavery!

Even though I think that way, how should I resolve this dilemma where they reject my offer to release them from slavery.”

Also, the problem still has not been resolved.

Who would sleep on the bed, who would sleep on the floor?

There’s no way I can allow the 2 of them who just shown how much confidence they have in me to sleep on the floor.

“The 3 of us might as well just sleep together ... or not hah.”

When I said that ...

“That’s true ... the bed looks slightly wider compared to a regular double bed.”

“Carol also have a small frame so ... I can sleep if there’s a small amount of space.”

... Eh? Seriously?

The 3 of us sleeping together?

“”As long as master (Ichino-sama) is alright with it...””

” ... Let’s sleep together then.”

We ended up adopting my suggestion.

At night ... with Haru to the left, Carol to the right, the dream 3 people bed was complete but ... naturally, I could not easily fall asleep.

Carol was hugging my arm as a hug pillow, Haru occasionally let out sexy breathing and her distinct female aroma stimulated my ear and nasal cavity causing me to get excited.

But, with Carol beside, I could not gonyogonyo with Haru and could only spend the night in a half-dead state of a snake.

The sun still has not risen.

(058) Exploration of the Labyrinth in the Mountains (Prequel)

After using 「Clean」 to wash the night sweats off my body and clothes as well as the sheets, I got dressed and ready for the morning.

In the morning, we will eat our breakfast in the inn.

Today's breakfast was the same hard bread as yesterday and mountain goat milk.

Mountain goat milk has a peculiar smell but well, it's not like I can't drink it. It seems like it would be delicious once you get used to it.

"Aunty, we would be going to the labyrinth today but we'll be coming back here to stay again so could we get 2 rooms?"

"Would a single room and a double room be alright?"

"Yes, we'll go with that."

I nodded as I soaked the hard bread that came out for breakfast in mountain goat milk and took out a silver coin from my item bag as I held the bread in my mouth. I told her to keep the change as her tip.

Haru reminded me that it would most likely be required since the shop did not display the tip free sign.

After confirming that the stew would be made tonight as well, I took out wolf

meat from my item bag.

It was a fraction of the wolf meat that I could not sell to the Adventurers Guild and we did not visit the butcher in the end either.

“Here, would you mind including this wolf meat in tonight’s stew? It’s alright if you take the remaining portion as well.”

“Oh, it’s a good cut of meat. Is it really alright?”

“It’s because I feel like eating meat.”

“Understood. Leave it to me, I’ll cook up my best dish.”

Yup, I believe the lady’s cooking skill can be trusted.

【Cook: Lv18】

The result of Job Appraisal was that she was a decently high leveled cook.

After we finished our breakfast, we aimed for the entrance of the labyrinth nearby on foot.

From what I heard, the labyrinth here is an unusual one, it is not a labyrinth that continues underground but is a labyrinth that extends upwards instead.

Carol said that she would not be useful there and offered to remain in the room but I heard that this labyrinth we were headed to is lower intermediate and has a lower degree of difficulty compared to the labyrinth in Belasra so I had Carol come along too.

Since I wanted to raise Carol’s level.

While we were headed to the labyrinth, Carol suggested to me.

“Ichino-sama, could you change Carol’s job from Apprentice Magician to Farmer?”

“Why are you asking that for?”

“If Carol becomes a Herbalist and creates mana potions, it might aid Ichino-sama’s alchemy.” *(TL: I translated 薬師 as Herbalist but it might be more like a Medicine Man or even Physician? Don’t really know as of now. It’s different from Ichinojo’s Practitioner 法術師.)*

“I see. Then I’ll change you to Farmer, then to Harvester when you level up and then to Herbalist.”

“Yes, well Carol would only be receiving 1/6 experience points so it would be some time before Carol level up to Harvester but once Carol becomes a Harvester, Carol would be able to pick the medicinal herbs growing on the road to level up.”

“Contrary to your expectations, I believe you would be able to become a Harvester a lot sooner though.”

I conveyed such suggestive words as we head for the labyrinth.

After walking for about 10 minutes, we came across an entrance-like hole to a limestone cave.

So this is the labyrinth’s entrance huh?

Understandably, there were no sentries at all.

We entered the labyrinth just like that.

“It’s a little late asking this now but why are there Goddess statues at the innermost location of labyrinths?”

I only thought about it now at this late junction.

“If people can acquire blessings by praying to the Goddess statues, wouldn’t it be fine to just have the Goddess statues near the entrances instead of deliberately placing them at the innermost location of the labyrinth? Or rather, in the first place, who with what purpose carried the Goddess statues to the deepest part of the labyrinths? That’s what I’m wondering about.”

“The role of the labyrinths and Goddess statues right. Goddess statues were originally magic tools made to accumulate and purify miasma.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. Both on the surface and within labyrinths, miasma is released when monsters are defeated. Miasma becomes the food for devils and devils grow with that as sustenance. To prevent that, Goddesses made the Goddess statues themselves to accumulate and purify the miasma.”

“The Goddesses did?”

“Yes. However, problems arose. On the surface, the amount of overflowing miasma increased and the miasma became monsters and attacked people as it could not be purified in time. For that sake, labyrinths were constructed to confine the monsters. That is the reason why monsters appear in labyrinths and the labyrinth’s degree of difficulty is determined by the density of the miasma in the region, the number of labyrinths and the strength of the Goddess statue to accumulate miasma.”

“Then, what about the boss rooms?”

“Bosses are born from a mass of the densest miasma. The reason why it takes time for it to reappear once again is because it requires time to gather the miasma.”

Also, the reason why minotaurs appear frequently on the 24th floor in the Belasra labyrinth is because there are multiple stairs that lead underground in

that labyrinth, allowing miasma to flow underground easily and the presence of only 1 stairs down to the lowest floor causes the miasma to accumulate.

“Does the fact that Florence has 3 labyrinths mean that miasma accumulates easily at Florence?”

“It has been said to be so. But I also do not know the cause.”

I see.

In other words, the labyrinth monsters are born from miasma so they disappear after they are defeated.

The monsters on the surface are not born from miasma so they do not disappear after they are defeated.

That means, the drop items are masses of miasma or instead, the miasma masses would more likely be the magic stones.

Then, what are the drop items? That is being investigated by great scholars.

“The minotaurs dropped meat and such and I’ve picked up quite a number but I’ve lost the desire to consume them.”

“But, I have not heard of cases where eating the meat or flesh dropped by monsters in the labyrinths causing damage to the body so there shouldn’t be any problems.”

“I’d say it’s more of a psychological issue.”

Though, it’s not good to dislike it even before trying to eat it.

Yup, let’s forget about the information learnt today.

In addition, apparently, people who died in the labyrinth or items that are

placed on the floor are sucked into the labyrinth because it is a system made to prevent miasma from clinging onto corpses and items and forming monsters.

“For this labyrinth, I’ll proceed with magic specialisation so enter with that in mind. Carol will stay beside me while Haru will be in front.”

It’s better to have enemy searching abilities in labyrinths to make it harder to get surprised attacked.

Outside, there’s the danger of attacks from afar so I use physical specialisation just in case.

By the way, my current jobs are Jobless, Apprentice Magician, Magician, Apprentice Alchemist, Apprentice Practitioner.

“Understood.”

“Yes.”

At that moment.

Even before I noticed, Haru’s tail stood straight up.

“I smell something ... it’s the odour of a monster that possesses poison.”

“Poison huh ... it sounds slightly troublesome so don’t go out too far ahead okay Haru.”

After walking for a while, it seems like it was registered in my enemy detection as well.

It was just around the corner.

Alright —

“「Petit Fire」! 「Petit Wind」!”

The small flame flew out and curved.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

It seems like Magician level went up because I used magic.

It’s my secret technique, flaming curve ball.

Or so I thought but in the end, it seemed like the ball of flame slammed into the wall just around the corner.

Along with the sound of the explosion, a monster appeared ahead — a red frog the size of a St. Bernard leaped out.

“「Petit Stone」!”

To redeem myself, I threw a rock that defeated the red frog.

Purple blood splashed onto the surroundings and it was sucked into the labyrinth and disappeared.

What remained was a magic stone and some purple mucus.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Apprentice Magician skill: 「Ice Magic」 obtained】

【Magician skill: 「Earth Magic」has skilled up to「Earth Magic II」】

【Magician skill: 「MP Strengthening (minor)」 obtained】

【Apprentice Practitioner skill: 「Healing Magic」has skilled up to「Healing Magic II」】

Yup, it's proceeding well.

Looking at the magic list, it seems like I acquired a magic called Cure.

As expected of 20x experience point acquisition and 1/20 required experience points. Is it alright to level up so easily?

“Er ... erm Ichino-sama.”

“Hmm? What's wrong?”

“For some reason, Carol's level has increased but ...”

“Congratulations. Did you learn any skills?”

“Yes, the Harvester job is now available and the skill for Sickle Equip but ... or rather, the level up is way too quick.”

Carol was seriously perplexed.

Well then, Carol's surprised expression was also cute but it's time for me to explain about my blessings.

(059) Exploration of the Labyrinth in the Mountains (Sequel)

“So Ichino-sama is a Wanderer and obtained the blessing for 20x experience point acquisition huh ...”

After I finished explaining to Carol, she said so as if ruminating on my explanation.

Wanderer — in other words, people from another world.

It seems like Carol doesn't have a feeling of repulsion in particular towards that.

“Did you not notice it when your Commoner level reached until 10 in one go when I was defeating a lot of minotaurs?”

“At that time, Carol was excited about the job change so Carol did not think about it deeply.”

“Yeah well, my tension was crazily high that time as well.”

While reflecting on the event that happened just the day before yesterday, I looked at the mucus that was dropped.

Although it had formed a purple jelly-like substance, I definitely do not want to consider touching it.

“I definitely do not want to touch this with my bare hands.”

“It's poison mucus after all. Harvesters will obtain a skill to pick it up with

their bare hands when they level up but it is impossible for Carol at the moment.”

Haru explained. Poison mucus. It sounds bad just from the name.

I am told that apparently, among the skills for Harvesters, there is one called 「Hazardous Material Harvesting」.

It appears to be a skill that allows for the safe harvesting of dangerous dropped items or during regular harvesting.

“Incidentally, what would happen if a person touches it directly without having the skill?”

“Upon direct contact, the poison will permeate through the skin causing the poisoned status. Once afflicted with the poisoned status, the only option would be to use medicine that can treat poison or for an Apprentice Practitioner to use 「Cure」 to treat it. Here, a person would have to immediately return to the village if they are attacked by poison.”

“Ah, so it’s a poison that can be treated with the magic 「Cure」 huh.”

Even though it’s a magic that I just learnt, it seems like it would be immediately useful judging by the situation here.

I sat on the floor, opened my item bag, took out the empty bottle from the time I drank the potion previously and placed it on the floor.

Then, I stretched my arms out.

“Master, what!?”

Haru cried out but I scooped the poison mucus with both my hands and

flowed it into the empty bottle.

Harvesting complete.

Then, my hands felt numb.

Looking closely, my hands had turned purple. If this is the poison condition then it is quite bad.

“We have to treat it quickly! Let’s return to the village!”

“Don’t panic, 「Cure」!”

My hands were wrapped in a pale yellow light.

【Ichinojo Level up】

Due to using Healing magic, my Apprentice Practitioner level also increased, becoming level 11.

Treatment was also a success.

I treated it immediately so my HP did not drop at all.

I properly capped the bottle and placed it into my item bag.

“Master, please don’t be so reckless.”

“It’s not reckless. Rather, if I don’t test it out here, it would definitely be troublesome if we get poisoned deep in the labyrinth and find out that it can’t be treated.”

“If that’s the case, then at least command me to do so.”

“Hahaha.”

I glossed over it with a laugh.

If I have to make Haru do something like that, I would not even decide to pick up the poison mucus in the first place.

“Well, this time, it was an experiment so I promise to not do something so reckless the next time.”

“Absolutely don’t, okay.”

Yup, but I can’t promise that though.

Carol’s job — I changed it to Harvester from Farmer and, we began walking toward the end of the labyrinth.

Along the way, we defeated spider monsters with long legs, a Tsuchinoko-like snake monster as well as scorpion-like monsters.

“There sure are a lot of poisonous monsters.”

The spider thread, snake fang, and scorpion stinger were items that could be touched with bare hands so 「Cure」 didn’t get a chance.

Of course, there were also a lot of non-poisonous monsters so we’ve accumulated a decent amount of experience points.

Incidentally, most of the items were picked up by me. Since I was the only person who could place items into the item bag, the items would have to exchange hands if Haru or Carol picked them up.

The 2 of them most likely understand but it looked like giving me the job of picking up items pained them.

By the way, leveling up has been proceeding quite smoothly.

Firstly, I acquired the 「Light magic」 skill after reaching Apprentice Magician Lv35 and the 「Darkness magic」 skill after reaching Lv40 where the counter stopped for Apprentice Magician. Peak of Apprentice Magician title GET. I seriously don't know the meaning of these titles.

Magician became Lv25 and 「Lightning magic」 became 「Lightning magic II」, with both Magician and Swordsman level reaching above Lv25, I acquired the job that tickles the heart of chuunibyous, Magic Swordsman. Apprentice Alchemist reached Lv20, I acquired recipes and furthermore obtained the Alchemist job.

Apprentice Practitioner rose to Lv16 and I acquired the skill 「Mace Equip」.

Lastly — no, actually, according to order it should be mentioned first but — Jobless level rose to Lv75.

For the time being, I switched Apprentice Magician to Alchemist and I reached the boss room.

“All thanks to Haru.”

I said with a smile.

A considerable time was shortened for us to reach the highest floor.

“There were a lot of poisonous monsters in this labyrinth so the smell was

unique as well.”

That’s right, Haru guided us to the place where she smelled the monsters that she has not sensed before.

Then, the majority of those smells were from other floors — in other words, they were monsters from higher floors.

“It looks like this boss is a 3-headed snake.”

“3-headed snake huh ...”

Even until the end, it’s a monster that is likely to be poisonous.

“It can apparently spit out poisonous breath from its mouth so if we defeat it in a short time from a far away location — no, it doesn’t matter to master.”

“Yes, it doesn’t matter to Ichino-sama.”

“I would prefer if you guys stopped using words like it doesn’t matter to me though.”

I said with a weary tone as I opened the door to the boss room.

It was quite a spacious room. There was a single one of it in the center.

A giant snake.

The torso split around the middle in 3, with 3 faces and mouths open.

It had a ferocious look on its face.

3-headed snake — it’s as if it is a hydra.

Although, hydras have 9 heads.

If it's not a hydra then, King Ghidorah?

Though it doesn't have wings and this one's colour is purple instead of gold.

The 3-headed snake opened its jaws wide.

A purple gas could be seen within the mouth.

It seems like it intends to spit poison breath all of a sudden.

“「Fire」! 「Wind」!”

I released Flame magic and Wind magic at the same time.

The wind became a tornado and engulfed the flames, becoming a fiery tornado that swallowed the 3-headed snake while blowing away the spat out poison breath.

Then —

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Apprentice Practitioner skill: 「Magic Defence Strengthening (minor)」 obtained】

【Job: Practitioner is now available】

【Alchemist skill: 「Alchemy」has skilled up to「Alchemy II」】

【Recipe obtained】

... Certainly, Haru and Carol's strategies didn't matter.

The 3-headed snake disappeared and left a large magic stone and even though it's a purple snake, it left golden snake skin.

Was it actually King Ghidorah after all?

“It was really over in an instant ...”

” ... Is it really alright for Carol to even receive experience points like this?”

The 2 of them were amazed.

Well, I’ve also been thinking if it was really alright to grow so easily.

For now, I stored the snake skin and magic stone in the item bag.

“Even so, as expected of Ichino-sama. Is that the skill of Jobless?”

“Yeah, it’s thanks to Jobless.”

It’s because of Jobless that I’ve reached my current strength.

Yup, Jobless banzai! Jobless is the greatest! I said that lifelessly.

“So it is really due to that. Since normally, a person can only use a single type of magic at a time after all.”

— Eh?

Carol, what did you just say?

Just as I had that thought, the back of the boss room — the door continuing to the Goddess statue opened.

(060) Unequipped Sensor

Inherently, only 1 type of magic can be used at a time?

But I can seriously use it normally though? Rather, the same magic can't be used consecutively due to the cool down time.

It was the 3rd time I'm entering the Goddess statue room as well as the 3rd time I'm seeing Koshmar-sama's statue including the one in the church.

The Goddess statue was faithful to the original as usual — since I've been told it was made by the Goddess-sama themselves, no wonder it could be reproduced so well.

However, how did they make it?

By looking in a mirror — but doing so would make it inverted, did they get other Goddess-sama to create it?

Or ... did they make a mold of themselves and pour plaster in?

If there's a need to mass-produce it then that would be the most efficient.

Well then, I'll change my jobs to Philanderer and Hunter.

With that, my luck went up considerably.

To qualify the amount of luck, the current luck stat I have is like luckily having the person in front of you alight at the next station when you ride on a crowded train, if it is now, I believe I'm lucky enough to win the stamp sheet for the

direct mail delivery of New Year's postcards.

Someday, I'd like to reach the luck stat to be able to win the delivery for hometowns parcels. *(TL: Japan's hometown parcel is a service that sells and distributes specialty goods)*

Incidentally, I've heard people ask that won't hometown parcels be irrelevant to my family, but it's not true, Miri won it once.

If I remember correctly, that time, we exchanged it for an assortment of Tsukudani *(preserved food boiled in soy sauce and mirin)*.

From then onwards, I noticed a clear distinction between the sense of values of Miri and that of the other children.

Now, if I get to exchange hometown parcels for something else, what would be good?

"It should be rice after all."

"Rice?"

"No, never mind."

I ended up unintentionally voicing out my thoughts. Since I've not been able to eat rice lately. I merely feel that rice is tasty after all.

Since without rice, one would not be able to eat sushi and curry rice.

Although, even if there's rice, I doubt if this world has the custom of eating raw fish and it looks like it would be quite troublesome to gather the spices if I want to eat curry.

... I've ended up over thinking my wants in front of the Goddess statue.

“Well then, shall we pray to Goddess-sama? Incidentally, Haru, what bonus would you like?”

Upon asking Haru, Carol who was beside me spoke out.

“I’ve heard that if you think about the thing you want in front of a Goddess statue, it would become hard to obtain.”

So the theory of greed sensor exists in the Otherworld too huh.

But, it is similar to the “The chances of the toast falling on the side spread with butter is proportional to the price of the carpet” type of theory that is representative of Murphy’s Law.

“Well, it’s probably a myth. Goddess-sama would not be so wicked either.”

It was possible for me to say that.

Taking the example of the crowded train earlier, it is the same reasoning as “I’m feeling helplessly tired. I hope the person in front alights. But just limited to the times when you wish for that, the passenger in front hardly ever stands up.”.

After all, it is actually decided by roulette.

“That’s right. I would like skills for combat use, skills for detection or a sword.”

“What about Carol ... ah, you don’t really need to say it if you don’t want to.”

Since, similar to greed sensor, even though a lot of people understand that jinxing is not logical, they are not able to disregard it.

But, it seems like my worries were groundless.

“Let me see. Space magic would be good if we’re talking about convenient skills. Although, it’s quite a rare skill so the chance of obtaining it is almost equal to zero.”

“Eh, what’s that?”

Magic Swordsman was good as well but that’s also a somewhat good name.

“Space magic is literally magic that manipulates space. Instantaneous escape from labyrinths and storage of items in a sub-space has been confirmed.”

“Uwa, that’s quite a cheat.”

Very well, I’ll also aim to acquire Space magic.

Since we’ve already decided on what we should aim for, we lined up before the Goddess statue and offered our prayers.

Then, I was in the pure white space after all.

Even I would get used to this space after coming here for the 4th time.

“It’s been a long time, Koshmar-sama.”

Even after looking at the Goddess-sama in front of my eyes, I no longer think of her as an Orc Goddess.

“As usual, your heart’s voice seems to be leaking out uncontrollably.”

Koshmar-sama stroked her double or even triple chin as she spoke as if she had given up.

Sorry, please pardon what's said in my heart.

"Erm, I have something I wish to ask Koshmar-sama though."

"Ah, about your sister?"

"Of course, that too but is my ability to use multiple types of magic consecutively due to the influence of Jobless after all?"

"I guess so. Your attendants Haurvatat and Carol would also be able to use 2 types of magic if they try to do it."

Koshmar-sama spoke as if she knew about it from the start.

"... Perhaps, the number of magic that can be used at the same time is the same number as the number of jobs set?"

"I believe so. But it is filled with exceptions so I also don't really know either. You, you severed legs with 「Slash」 right? That is originally impossible as well."

Now that she mention it, I feel like I've heard about that before. The influence of Jobless seems to be surprisingly large.

"If somebody sees it, you can say that it is a skill bestowed from Goddess-sama. Nobody would enquire deeper if you say that. Since there are many unusual skills that are bestowed in labyrinths."

"Understood. By the way — "

I asked about the issue that I've been anxious about the most, Miri.

Is she doing fine?

“I’ve investigated it. Your younger sister is currently headed towards Mount Fuji.”

“Towards Mount Fuji?”

Isn’t Mount Fuji the place she absolutely did not want to go?

Why at this timing?

“Why in the world?”

“For the time being, she’s doing fine if you are worried.”

Well, I won’t think like “Why would you go to Mount Fuji even though you have a cold!”.

Perhaps she intends to scatter my ashes into the crater of Mount Fuji?

I’m certainly dead on that side after all.

I wonder if that won’t turn into a problem.

Even so, ashes to Mount Fuji huh.

I inadvertently laughed.

“Sorry, it reminded me of a tale from the past.”

Noticing Koshmar-sama in front of me, I unconsciously made an excuse.

But, my heart has most likely been read either way.

“Ah, even though I say a tale from the past, it’s not about when I was a child, it’s a fairy tale. It’s something that began a long time ago. But, that tale is probably more famous for starting with once upon a time.”

【Once upon a time, there was an old man who harvests bamboo. He went into the woods and hills to collect bamboo and used them to make various articles.】

It begins with such a sentence and is currently the oldest story in Japan in existence.

The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter.

I wonder if the illustration book of Princess Kaguya is more famous?

The ending of that story was that the immortal medicine received from Princess Kaguya was burned at the top of the mountain. Which was why Mount Immortal became Mount Fuji. (*TL: Immortal = Fushi*)

That was the punch line.

I wasn’t really laughing at the irony of scattering the ashes of the dead in the place where the immortal medicine was burned in the fairy tale.

In the originally drawn illustration book for The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter — I laughed when I recalled about Princess Kaguya.

As far as I can remember, that Miri only read books regarding Princess Kaguya. Furthermore, various types of books on Princess Kaguya.

So, I asked.

Do you like Princess Kaguya?

When I ask that, Miri will always reply.

“I hate her.”

Even though she says she hate her, she continues to read.

Hating it is definitely a lie and she obviously actually likes her.

During middle school, I thought to myself that she actually has attributes for a tsundere.

“In the end, it was a story from when you were young. So, what do you want to do? You don’t need the reward for clearing the labyrinth?”

“Need! Please give me!”

When I said that, roulette, lottery box, and darts appeared.

And for the 3rd time, I stared at the roulette.

“You plan to do it with the roulette?”

“Is Space magic not available among these choices?”

“No. If Space magic could be acquired with the probability of $1/34$, the world would be filled with Space magic users.”

The words for Space magic wasn’t present at the darts as well.

” ... Then for the lottery box, I just place my hand in?”

“Correct. Do you plan to use the lottery box?”

” ... Yes.”

Lottery huh.

It was a wooden box of height, width, and depth of about 30cm, with a hole opened up that was covered by an unnatural Darkness making it impossible to see the inside.

I did not know what was the probability of acquiring Space Magic.

It was precisely a Gacha without a probability and prize giveaway list.

“Then, play in the order from Carol’s portion.”

“Eh? Is it alright for me to draw for all 3 portions?”

“It’s alright. You raised your luck stat for that reason right?”

I’m thankful but that consequently made my responsibility heavier.

Since Carol’s previous time was a questionable 1000 sense.

“Alright, I’m drawing.”

I inserted my hand into the box.

It’s a small box so I’d reach the bottom immediately, or so I thought. But —

The box is deep!

I plunged in with a lot of force so I entered all the way up to my shoulder.

Isn't this Space Magic?

It felt like — there were small balls dancing around within the box.

I pulled out a ball from there.

— 「Decipher」?

That was written on the ball.

It was a black ball with white words.

It's likely to be a skill.

“It's a skill that decrypts ancient texts.”

” ... Another questionable one sorry, Carol.”

“It's a skill that scholars desperately desire though.”

Koshmar-sama followed up but since we weren't scholars ...

Next would be Haru's portion.

I put my hand into the box.

Hn~, if it's a combat skill, well it will somehow work out.

Roar, my luck stat!

I pulled out a ball.

Then, a red ball appeared.

” ... Wind Bow.”

“Ooo, you’ve won. Wind Bow is a bow that does not require arrows. When you pull the bowstring, you can release a wind arrow.”

So it’s a magic bow huh. It’s without a doubt a rare item but to not get a combat skill or even a sword.

Is my luck stat really working?

“I’ll put this out there, the Wind Bow is a rare item that sells for 8 gold coins if you sell it.”

... Multiple times more than Rare Medals huh.

It certainly is a win.

In general.

Very well, lastly it would be me.

I plunged my hand into the box.

This time around — I want Space Magic! If that’s impossible, at least a sword that I can transfer to Haru!

I concentrated on all the nerves at the tip of my finger.

I can see! I can see it!

The scattered balls almost like sparkling stars in the space-like limitless expanse.

From within those, the glowing ball — I gripped the shining ball and pulled my hand out of the box.

【Lifestyle Magic】

..... Eh?

【Title: 「Labyrinth Conqueror II」has ranked up to「Labyrinth Conqueror III」】

【Clear reward skill: 「Lifestyle Magic」 has ranked up to「Lifestyle Magic II」】

I tilted my head at the unexpected result as Koshmar said,

“Your luck is great. Lifestyle Magic can only be acquired through clear reward so there aren’t many who learned until Lifestyle Magic II.”

“Erm, Goddess-sama, I want to ask just 1 thing.”

I gingerly tried to ask Koshmar-sama but Koshmar-sama read my heart and replied me beforehand.

Apparently, there isn’t a greed sensor.

(061) The simple hike down the mountain

When I came to, I had returned to the deepest part of the labyrinth, the room with the Goddess statue.

Well, I'm relieved to hear that Miri is healthy and even though we didn't get the skills and items we aimed for, it's better than getting scourers.

"Ichino-sama, I've acquired the 「Decipher」 skill. The applications are limited but it is a rare skill."

"It looks like I've obtained a magic bow. It's a very good bow. I've not used a bow since I was a child so I'm worried if my skill has dulled."

Carol with a smile and Haru with her tail wagging reported their respective results.

Now that I think about it, Haru also possessed the Bow Equip skill.

It seems like the outcome wasn't as bad.

"It was Lifestyle magic for me. Lifestyle magic was raised to level II."

"Lifestyle magic level increased huh? Ichino-sama's luck sure is good."

"It's a lucky thing?"

"Lifestyle magic has a 1 in a 100 probability of acquiring during the first time. It is handy because it has a lot of convenient magic."

Carol explained to me.

Certainly, in a world without vacuum cleaners and washing machines, purification is the best and greatest magic.

“Magic list open”

I took a look at what magic I’ve learned.

Petit Ice, Petit Dark, and Petit Light were likely to be magic learnt from Ice magic, Darkness magic, and Light magic.

Then, there was 1 more. A magic that has been added.

“Silent ... room?”

If it’s called silent move then I can understand. Stealthy footsteps — it would be a magic that removes the sound of footsteps.

However. It’s room instead of move. Silent room?

“Silent room is — that’s right. It would be quicker to understand if you try using it. Since it’s not a dangerous magic and the MP expenditure is low.”

“Yup, alright.”

Listening to Carol’s explanation, I decided to actually attempt to use it.

“Silent room.”

Once I chanted that, a rectangular thin light film spread out. Almost as if it is a light room.

The light film expanded according to my thoughts, it widened when I willed it to and shrunk when I thought to make it narrower.

However, the width had a limit and could not widen beyond a certain width

and the room is apparently set to widen with me as the center.

“What kind of effect does this have?”

I asked Carol.

But, she didn't reply. Furthermore, it somehow felt like the sound reverberated.

Looking at Carol, Carol's mouth was opening *paku paku* and it seemed like she was saying something.

Then, Haru passed through the light film and entered.

So it can be easily slipped through huh?

“Master, did you hear the words Carol said?”

“Eh? Carol was only opening and closing her mouth — ah, so it has that kind of effect.”

In other words, if I'm in this room, I won't be able to hear the sounds from outside.

“Carol, raise your right hand if you can hear this.”

I tried shouting.

However, Carol merely looked like she was saying something but she didn't raise her right hand.

It seems like the sounds from within doesn't leak out to the outside either.

So to speak, this light film is the strongest soundproof wall.

By willing the light film to disappear, the light film disappeared as if dissolving into the air.

“Have Ichino-sama understood the effect of Silent Room?”

I could hear Carol’s voice now.

I knew it very well.

It’s a magic that can be used when the neighbouring room complains that it is too noisy and they can’t sleep.

“Yeah. But, I feel that it is kind of plain compared to Clean.”

“That’s right. However, the range widens once proficiency increases. If you raise it until Lv 5, it would be capable of encasing large theatres so theatre officials would give you work. Apparently, there’s a town that rose up due to a single Silent Room.”

That’s amazing.

Certainly, sound reverberates to a degree so it would be easier for musicians and opera singers to sing.

In addition, it would be convenient for private conversations.

Due to the nature of my job — it’s kind of a misleading expression in various ways but — I have a lot of secrets that would be troubling if other people find out so it seems to be a handy magic for me.

“Then, it’s about time we aim to escape huh — ”

Since I couldn't acquire Space Magic, we would have to physically walk down.

Though, it is better compared to previously when we had to climb up stairs. Descending is easier after all.

When I thought so,

"Ichino-sama, this labyrinth apparently has a slight secret that other labyrinths don't have. Please come this way."

Carol said that and led me to behind the Goddess statue.

Koshmar-sama's statue was too large so the back of the Goddess statue could not be seen but there was an opened door there with a small room behind it and another door at the back of that room.

The 3 of us entered the small room and we closed the door that we came in from.

"The escape hatch has been prepared here."

"Escape hatch?"

"Yes, it would be the exit after that door. Yesterday, I heard of it from the people from the caravan but it seems like it really is true."

Then, I opened the back door.

Light shined through.

It was already the outside there.

Also, there —

“We’ve climbed up to such a place huh?”

It was the mountain peak.

Below, Gomaki Village was visible.

“It’s a great view.”

Maybe because the air was clear, we could see far off into the distance.

“Master, I can see Sadness River.”

Haru said with a refreshing expression.

Looking at the location she mentioned, I saw a river quite a distance away.

The width of the river was considerably wide so we could clearly see it even from here.

“It’s the river that forms the national boundaries for the 3 countries Dakyat, Korat, and Arundel. Beyond that river would be Dakyat.”

Mountains to the west, forests to the east, the 2 locations became water sources and merged at the intersection of the 3 country borders, forming a single river.

We felt like continuing to view the scenery so we decided to have our lunch there.

Then, after resting for a while, we descended down the mountain.

As if we were out hiking.

Within the labyrinth it only felt like we were advancing, it didn't have the feeling of climbing up a mountain but only when descending down the mountain could I feel like we were hiking. Even though I did properly climb up with my own 2 feet.

Haru said that she wanted to tend to the horse and headed to the stable, Carol headed for the only shop in the village to gather information.

Around that time, I was free so I worked to convert the iron ores into iron balls alone in the room.

With the skill up of the Alchemy skill to Alchemy II, my work efficiency changed drastically.

Surprisingly, I could convert it into iron balls in just a minute.

Furthermore, I somewhat felt like the iron purity was higher compared to before.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

Alchemist and Apprentice Alchemist levels were also leveling up smoothly.

However, even though the efficiency increased, the MP expenditure didn't change so the MP consumption was intense.

Well, later I would only be sleeping so I'll use it until the limit.

Or so I thought but — a feeling of exhaustion huh.

My mind was in a daze.

Looking at my status, my MP had decreased until 12 remained.

Yup, it seems like I can make slightly more.

Since I did not work my brain sufficiently, I ordered the creation of the next iron ball.

Then — I lost consciousness.

(062) The incorrect use of the Room of Silence

... My head feels heavy.

Nn, this feeling, it's the same as the hangover I had that time 1 week after my 20th birthday, during my part-time job days, when I was dragged to a bar by my senior and made to drink a ton of plum wine and shochu highballs.

At that time, I was scolded quite badly by Miri so I clearly remember the pain I felt in my head (I can't remember how I got home).

The moment I opened my eyes — it's a ceiling I know.

Since I slept in the same room yesterday — it was a ceiling that I stared at for an entire night. Eh, looking at it in detail, similar to how the blemishes on a person's face are unique, this is exactly the same room.

(Eh? Wasn't I in the single room?)

"This place — "

Looking at the side of the wall, there was a lamp suspended on it and it was already dark outside the window.

"Master, you've woken up."

Haru peered at my face.

“Haru ... I, why am I here?”

“Master lost consciousness because your MP was depleted.”

“So people lose consciousness when MP is depleted huh?”

... Because in games one would only be unable to use magic when that happens, I unconsciously thought that it would be the same in this world as well.

Moreover, I have not completely depleted my MP before until today.

When I tried to confirm my current MP, it had recovered to 30.

“Sorry. Even though I knew that master is a Wanderer, I did not explain it to master.”

“No, I was careless. Haru, you shouldn’t blame yourself for it ... is Carol at the single room instead?”

“Yes, she was watching master together with me up until just now but I found that her complexion wasn’t good so I decided that we should look after master in shifts. By the way, would you like to have dinner? For the time being, I did set aside stew but it has cooled down.”

There was cold stew placed above the chest drawer beside the bed.

Hn, I don’t really have any appetite at the moment.

I stared intently at Haru.

White hair, white ears, white skin.

“I’ll warm it up now.”

When she turned around, her white tail peeked out from her skirt.

I slowly stood up from bed, hugged Haru from behind and slid my right hand under her skirt.

The sensation of a pair of bloomers was conveyed to my hand.

My left hand grabbed Haru's moderately sized breasts.

"Haru — because we couldn't do it yesterday — "

I changed my job to Philanderer.

"But, master. The walls of this room are thin so Carol would notice if we make noise."

" ... Don't worry, just for that — "

I laughed,

"「Silent Room」!"

and invoked the magic.

With this, no matter what happens, the noise won't leak to the outside.

Haru and I, as well as the bed, were encased by the light room.

It's as if this magic was prepared precisely for the sake of doing *that* in an inn.

To be honest, this usage method was all I could think about when I heard of the explanation regarding this magic.

“Well then — please allow me to take care of you.”

Haru turned around and invited me to the bed.

Thus, my night began.

※ ※ ※

Breakfast. Because the inn lady heated up the stew from yesterday, I could eat the meat-filled stew.

Normally, it should have been the best breakfast.

However, the reality was that the place was dominated by an awkward atmosphere.

My Philanderer level only rose by 1 level.

It couldn't be helped.

Carol was quite uncomfortable but I'm definitely the one at fault.

I had completely overlooked the number 1 drawback of 「Silent Room」.

It's true that with 「Silent Room」's range surrounding the bed, the sounds of our affair did not leak to the outside.

However, we also could not hear the sound of the knock on the door.

Carol's expression when she knocked and opened the door to change shift to look after me is still clearly burned into my eyes even now.

I think it was my fault for not locking the door but if we totally did not react to the door knock, Carol might even have gone to the inn lady to get her to open the door together using a duplicate key.

It would be disastrous if that happened.

Next time onward, I must extend the range of 「Silent Room」 just barely until it includes the door but if it is just slightly wider, the light film would leak outside the room so it wears down on my nerve quite a bit.

“Erm ... Ichino-sama ... yesterday.”

” ... Carol ... sorry. Please forget about what happened yesterday.”

” ... Yes.”

In the end, it became like this.

Haru was also slightly depressed.

To Haru, Carol is something like a younger sister to her so it must be tough for her to be seen by her during such an act.

I also have an actual younger sister so I know the feeling well.

“Anyway, I apologize for ending up like that yesterday after reaching OMP. I’ll bear that in mind from today onward.”

“Master’s MP is much higher compared to a normal Alchemist so it can’t be helped that master was careless.”

“However, when Carol checked the iron balls made by Ichino-sama, their quality has clearly increased. As expected of Ichino-sama.”

We exchanged unnatural smiles as the dining table was spread in front of us.

Yup, as expected, it's better when stew has meat in it.

※ ※ ※

Riding in the carriage, we traveled down the mountain.

Until my MP completely recovers, I explored if there were any jobs that could accumulate experience points without using MP but could not find any in the end, so I ended up searching if there were any monsters nearby by continuously using 「Presence Detection」.

However, there were only 1 or 2 monsters far away and there were completely no monsters at all along the highway.

By the time it reached the afternoon, my MP had completely recovered so I tried performing Alchemy.

I took out a box filled with iron ores from my item bag.

Incidentally, the result from my hardwork the whole day yesterday until I lost consciousness.

Apprentice Alchemist reached Lv37, Alchemist reached Lv18.

The skills I acquired are as below.

【Apprentice Alchemist skill: 「Metal Refining」 obtained】

【Alchemist skill: 「Metal Refining」has skilled up to「Metal Refining II」】

【Alchemist skill: 「Magic Metal Fusion」 obtained】

「Metal Refining」 is a technique used to extract impurities from metals. Apparently, the metals that are possible for me to refine changes according to the skill rank.

「Magic Metal Fusion」 is apparently the skill used to fuse magic metals that Carol told me previously.

Although at the moment, it's a skill that has no relation to me since I only possess goblin iron now.

My recipes have increased too but as expected, it seems that I still can't refine mithril from mithril ores.

I'll have to raise my Alchemy level to be able to make mithril.

Currently, I have about 4 times more MP compared to regular Alchemists.

Since MP recovery amount is dependent on the maximum MP, my MP recovery amount is also about 4 times more than ordinary Alchemists.

Furthermore, thanks to my blessings, my growth is 400 times easier compared to other people.

In other words, now, if I accumulate experience points just for Alchemy without defeating monsters, I can level up 1600 times faster compared to other Alchemist who use the same method.

But then, I don't think I would be able to beat those rich Alchemist who purchase mana potions for the sake of leveling up.

By doing so, once their level increases, they would be able to achieve what other Alchemists can't. Like how they can convert mithril ores into mithril. If they do that, that would be converted into gold and they can further purchase even more mana potions.

It's a vicious cycle.

It's a system where gold gathers to the rich.

Mana potion huh? I wonder when would I be able to obtain them.

Since regular shops don't deal in them, I guess connections would be required as well to obtain mana potions.

"Haru-san, please stop the carriage around that area!"

Carol said.

Toilet break? Or so I thought,

"Ichino-sama, apparently mana grass grows in clumps in that area."

"Mana grass?"

Magical power glass? *(TL: In Japanese, they don't have the 'L' pronunciation so both grass and glass sounds the same)*

No, since she mentioned clumps, it should mean grass huh?

The negative effect of not being able to distinguish between the pronunciation of 'R' and 'L' came out.

Magical power grass — is it a medicinal herb?

"Yes, it is an ingredient for mana potion. The village hunter-san stumbled across it and taught me. As long as I continue with my first job as Peddler, I won't be able to enter the Herbalist Guild so I have to find the medicinal herbs myself."

So what she was researching about yesterday was information on medicinal herbs huh?

Looking at Carol enter the forest according to the landmarks she heard from the hunter and dirty her hands with soil to extract the magical grass, I thought that maybe it won't actually take that long before I obtain a mana potion.

I wanted to help too but it won't become Carol's experience points if I was the one who harvests it.

I thought that, in exchange, I'll help clean her with 「Clean」 after she finishes harvesting.

(063) Camping out Cuisine

While passing by countless Peddlers along the way, we traveled southward.

My heart tinged for leaving all of the horse handling to Haru.

Carol invited me to clean up the mana grass that she picked up just now so, as a test, I tried 「Clean」 and because it reached the condition whereby the soil was completely removed, I once again had nothing to do.

Carol was shocked.

Originally, the magic 「Clean」 is not supposed to be so omnipotent and 「Clean」 shouldn't be able to remove the soil from the grass.

Since to the grass, soil isn't something that is dirt but something it requires.

Even if she tells me that, I can't control what I'm capable of doing.

After that, soaking it in water for half a day and drying it by basking it in the moonlight during the night would likely make the mana grass a good quality material.

To me, drying it after soaking it in water felt like double the work but since it's supposed to be done that way, I poured the water produced using the Water magic 「Petit Water」 into a barrel from within my item bag and placed the mana grasses within it.

I've also become better at adjusting the amount of water produced using 「Petit Water」.

When I was secretly practicing, I was flustered when the water ball I sent out

seemed like it smashed the tree it hit.

Using magic with full power is extremely easy but using it when holding back requires precision.

Since I had nothing to do, I prepared the rock solid bread that I failed to eat yesterday night that became even harder despite already being hard in the first place and began performing a certain task.

Because the sun was setting, we gathered firewood and today we would be camping out around the area here.

Since it seemed like it would take 2 days to reach Dakyat, we're camping out around the area here for today.

Even for Dakyat that felt like it was quite close by when viewed from the mountain summit, it's actually quite far once we actually travel.

In particular, the path down meandered quite a bit as we descended so there's no helping it.

Carol remained in the carriage as Haru and I gathered tree branches that seem capable of acting as firewood.

Fortunately, since there was a forest once we descended the mountain, we weren't inconvenienced with the lack of firewood.

Along the way, we found tree nuts that look edible and I gathered them together with Carol in the morning so that might be good enough for breakfast.

Her Harvester level has increased so she's acquired the 「Plant Appraisal」 skill and is apparently able to at least determine if tree nuts are edible or not.

After we finished gathering a certain number of tree branches, I assembled about 30 percent of them and,

“「Petit Fire」”

Similar to 「Petit Water」, I held back and used the Fire magic.

I constructed the campfire without disintegrating the tree branches and turning them into charcoal.

With this, we should be fine even when the night comes.

Feeling at ease caused me to feel hungry.

“Alright, shall we cook then?”

I suggested to the 2 of them.

“”Eh?””

Haru and Carol raised surprised voices.

It can't be helped that the 2 of them are surprised. Even though we're camping out, I have an item bag and it has various dishes inside.

There wasn't a need to deliberately use the campfire to cook.

“See, we can eat freshly made dishes with the item bag any time but we won't have a chance to eat campfire cooking if we don't have an opportunity like now right? Don't worry, I've already purchased the ingredients and prepared the cookware as well.”

Saying that, I lined up the frying pan and ingredients from my item bag on top of a flat rock. It was all purchased in Belasra Town.

Incidentally, I also used 「Clean」 on the stone for sterilization and disinfection — though I'm not sure if that was achieved but it became clean.

“For the time being, shall we have roasted fish and simple barbecue? I've also bought iron skewers either way. Haru, sorry but could you help fillet the fish. Carol, please cut the leek into bite-sized chunks. I'll make the meat easy to eat.”

Haru prepared the freshwater fish, Carol, the leeks and I, the remaining wolf meat.

Thanks to my dismantling knowledge, I know the method to make meat softer to a certain extent.

I inserted fine cuts into the muscle fibers to make it more tender.

I felt that this dismantling skill could also be used sufficiently by cooks that work with meat dishes as a skill.

Naturally, I didn't put in cuts for Haru's portion. It's not because I'm being mean but because she prefers meat that is chewier. The chewiness would be lost if I cut the muscle fibers.

“Haru, the fillet ... or not.”

The fish was splendidly split into 3 pieces.

However, they were cut into chunks.

It was split into the head, torso and tail portions.

At the very least, it wasn't a fillet.

Rather than fillet, it was a disappointing split.

“Oh well, since it's at this stage I'll work it out. Carol ... no, my mouth isn't that small you know.”

She was slicing it. However, it was ones with 5 mm width. Furthermore, she has only finished slicing 3 slices. Just how leisurely has she been cutting it?

Or rather, the way she was gripping the knife was quite dangerous.

Perhaps she couldn't even hear my voice, she stared at her hand and about when she raised the kitchen knife high, I grabbed her wrist.

If I let her continue using such cutting methods, she might really cut off her finger one day.

Even though these 2 girls are so cute, to think that neither of them knows how to cook — I slightly thought to myself but well, everyone has their own weaknesses.

Come to think of it, Miri's cooking skill was also absolutely hopeless and the person I've met who could cook the best since I've come to this world is Margaret-san (♂).

Maybe it's a sign telling us that the era of females doing the cooking is ending on Earth and in this world as well.

After that, I told them what I would do it and I showed Haru the way to do a fillet and taught Carol the way to use a kitchen knife.

“Sorry, master ... I am new to cooking.”

“Carol as well ... sorry.”

“It’s fine it’s fine, don’t mind it. Since I quite like to cook anyway.”

Because Miri’s meals were made by me alone after our parents died in the accident.

I could cook decently. Of course, it is nowhere near to the pros.

I seasoned the meat with the salt we purchased from Florence and the pepper we purchased as a commodity in Belasra before skewering them together with leeks and roasting them over the campfire.

In the meantime, while heating up the frying pan, I placed the fat removed from the wolf meat on.

Actually, it would be better if rapeseed oil or olive oil was used but I’ll restrain myself there.

To the fillet fish, I applied flour, beaten egg and breadcrumbs made by crushing the hard bread.

I made fried fish fillet using the frying pan.

Since it was completed right at the same time as with the barbecue, we waited for the iron skewers to cool down before the 3 of us ate.

“Barbecue ... I seldom eat leek but it’s very delicious like this. The meat is also modestly tough.”

“This is the first time Carol tried this fish cooking style. It is crunchy and the flavor of the fish is trapped and concentrated within, it’s very delicious.”

The cooking was well received by the 2 of them.

Certainly, the fried fish was delicious. The meat was also good.

However, among the cooking I've tasted since coming to this world, it was still second to Margaret-san's cooking.

I felt that the dishes I ate in Japan was a lot more delicious.

Moreover, above all else, I'd like some sauce or soy sauce for the fried fish. Barbecue as well, it was unsatisfactory with just salt and pepper.

If that can't be achieved, at the very least rice — I want to eat rice.

My quest for food looked like it still had to continue.

Side Story Jofreli's Journey

The day Jofre and Elise departed from Belasra was the night the day before Ichinojo reached Belasra.

There was a huge reason why they left Belasra.

After the 2 of them finished eating a decent dinner after a long time, they purchased a large amount of feed for Centaur who was in the stable and crammed it into the item bag as well as purchased saddles for 2 to use on Centaur.

All that was left was to find an inn to sleep — that was the only plan.

But, Jofre looked at the eastern sky and exclaimed.

“Look Elise! The first star is shining!”

“That’s true Jofre. It’s really pretty.”

“Did you know? When the first star appears in the eastern sky, it signifies the day to start a journey. Not in the west or the north or the south but the east, if the first star shines in the eastern sky, then today is the day we depart.”

“Okay! Let’s immediately go!”

Setting off on the day the first star shines is, in essence, a simple saying to depart the next morning because the weather is good but for Jofre who only heard half of the saying, they ended up beginning their journey at night just like that.

“So, where are we going?”

“Of course, it’s best to ask the journeying pro.”

“Then, we’ll leave it to Centaur right.”

It’s not that the 2 of them have forgotten the result of leaving it up to Centaur.

They just merely strongly remembered the fact that as a result of entrusting it to Centaur, they firmly arrived at Belasra Town.

Incidentally, this Centaur — the species called Slow Donkey. Just like its name, they don’t really have speed but they are monsters with a lot of strength.

Furthermore, after eating 2 Rare Medals, its strength was raised greatly and its speed was now on par with ordinary horses.

It was also much stronger than Jofre and Elise.

To the extent that if the 2 of them hunted it, they would not be able to win against Centaur.

In spite of that, why is Centaur obeying the 2 of them?

The answer is quite simple.

It has not been obeying them since the start.

It merely lives whichever way it wants to.

That is Centaur's living principle.

Therefore, Centaur let the 2 of them ride on its back and today it would travel appropriately as well.

That dignified posture felt like it was precisely a veteran of travel but naturally, none of them grasped their destination.

(064) Rabbit-less moon

During the night, Carol and I took turns to act as a lookout.

Since Haru has to work as the coachman tomorrow as well, I had her sleep first.

Of course, I didn't forget to use 「Clean」 in exchange for a bath.

Since Carol took the first shift as a lookout, Haru and I were resting on the carriage's cargo bed wrapped in a blanket.

Of course, I kept doing *that* on hold today.

After all, I can't possibly tire Haru out and above all else, the location was completely visible from the outside.

Since the carriage had sufficient space, I could sleep separated from Haru and didn't have to suffer the feeling of nervousness for the whole night like during the night the day before yesterday.

I asked Carol to wake me up when the moon passes above the tree to the south.

Carol probably thinks that she must take the longer lookout shift because she is a slave but I also did not want to let a girl act as the lookout alone.

We ended up with our current roster after coming to an agreement.

Incidentally, I told her that I would act as the sole lookout from now on if she

broke her promise.

“Ichino-sama, it’s time to switch.”

I was woken up by Carol.

Looks like it is time to substitute her.

The moon is certainly directly above the tree.

While rubbing my sleepy eyes, I sat on a rock close to the campfire.

When I gave a huge yawn, Carol sat opposite me.

“Ichino-sama, is it alright if we talk?”

“We can but it might be tough for you tomorrow you know?”

“It won’t be tough. Carol is the daughter of Peddlers okay? Carol is accustomed to something to this extent.”

Even if she’s the daughter of Peddlers, the parents would likely make the child sleep at night.

But, well, Carol can sleep inside the carriage anytime either way so it doesn’t matter.

“Ichino-sama, the stars are pretty right?”

“Yeah, really pretty.”

I wonder if there’s anywhere in Japan where you can see this much of the starlit sky?

I ended up thinking maybe if it is around the area of the uninhabited islands

to the south.

“Carol thought that Carol would not be able to see the starlit sky ever again.”

” ... I see, that’s true.”

After Carol became a Temptress, she could no longer go out at night due to her unique skill.

Since she would release pheromones that would attract monsters.

“Grace-sama often did it but normally, one would not allocate a private room to a slave. Even so, the nights were still lonely after all. Because of that, the day before yesterday, when Carol could sleep on the same bed as master, Carol was extremely happy.” *(TL: I’m pretty sure the author meant Quince-sama)*

“I see.”

“Last night too, even though that happened, Carol is still happy.”

“Un, please forget that.”

Rather, I also really want to forget about it soon.

In addition to forgetting, I’d like to not commit the same mistake.

And then,

“Today too, to be able to speak with Ichino-sama like this, Carol is extremely happy.”

” ... Is that so?”

“Yes.”

“I see — alright.”

I patted Carol's head.

I ruffled her purple hair.

Seriously, what a cute child.

As I ruffled her hair and pat her head, she leaned on my shoulder.

The purple hair was illuminated by the light from the campfire.

"Carol, are you sure you still don't want to sleep?"

"A little longer — is it okay if I stay like this a little longer?"

"Yeah

The stars shined beautifully.

To top it off, a beautiful full moon was also shining.

No matter how hard I looked at the craters of the moon, there wasn't the pattern of a rabbit.

※ ※ ※

Next morning.

The truth was that the 2 of us both slept — there wasn't such a punch line, exactly 20 minutes later Carol fell asleep and there also wasn't the punch line where we forgot to store the mana grass into my magic bag as they became dry just before dawn.

If anything, the fruits that I found yesterday were apparently not suitable for consumption when I showed them to Carol so we simply had our breakfast with the food inside my item bag.

Since we've crossed the mountain, maybe it's fine to say that there was no

mountain, no punch line, and no dawn.

Forgive me if I'm wrong about the 801 deployments. *(TL: Don't ask me ... the author's trying to be witty.)*

Nevertheless, I used half of the recovered MP to perform Alchemy.

Hence, today's job would be to think of a name for the horse that I've been postponing until now.

Hn, a white horse. Since I'm ignorant to horse racing, I only know of Oguri Cap but that was a stallion.

As expected, I have to decide on an original name.

White — Snow ... Snowman.

What about Yukinobu.

Wait, it isn't a name that fits this fantasy world.

"Snow ... horse ... horsesnow, wait, it feels like there's no need for horse."

If that's the case, let's try thinking from Haru's name.

Since it was tamed by Haru either way.

Their colours are both white so the season that connects to that colour would be winter.

"Alright, Fuyun then. It's also easy to remember." *(TL: Winter is pronounced as Fuyu)*

I peeped into the carriage's coachman seat and inquired about the white

horse's condition.

The white horse glared at me and snorted — that was how it felt to me.

No, it's not a misunderstanding. It definitely made a fool out of me.

... This guy, shall I make you into horse sashimi?

"I think it's a good name. What do you think? Fuyun."

When Haru asked the horse, it neighed in high spirits.

Yup, I'll definitely eat that horse someday.

※ ※ ※

After safely deciding on the horse's name, we advanced further to the south.

When it became around evening, we spotted a town.

We could also see the river beyond the town. It was a huge river.

"It's the border post town. Will we be entering Dakyat today? Or will we do so in the morning? The procedure to cross the border would take about 30 minutes."

"Let's enter if we can enter today. I'd like to have some information on Dakyat and it would be more convenient if we crossed the border."

"As expected of master. To have such foresight."

Haru praised me but isn't it something that anybody would be able to think of?

“Ichino-sama, please take out the goods from your items bag.”

“Ah, that’s right.”

This time, we were entering the town as Peddlers.

Apparently, the town entry tax would be discounted.

Even though it’s also alright to pay a larger amount, we would have to pay for the country entry tax later as well. It never hurts to save.

“Come to think of it, if I change Haru and Carol’s jobs into Commoner, would half of the experience points be given to me and the remaining half distributed among the 3 of us when I pay the tax, similar to when I defeat monsters? Since we’re in a party.”

“No, only the person who pays the tax will gain the experience points.”

I see. So it won’t work that well.

Very well, let’s enter Dakyat.

I extracted more than half of the wooden boxes where the iron ores had been converted into pure iron as well as the peppers from my item bag as we went to enter the border town in order to enter the country that we have not seen before.

(065) Border Town

Today, I will have to pay 2 types of taxes for a total of four times.

The town entry tax for the border town at Arundel Kingdom's side.

Then, the cross-border tax paid to Arundel for crossing the border.

Furthermore, I have to pay for the cross-border tax to enter the country Dakyat.

Lastly, it would be the town entry tax for the border town at Dakyat's side.

"So there's a need to pay taxes 4 times ... that sure is tough."

"Ichino-sama, you're grinning though."

"That isn't true."

It was true.

Well then, I'll have to remember to change to Commoner.

Of course, gold is important so I will make use of Carol's Peddler's privilege.

Discount for the town entry tax.

Apparently, the amount differs between towns and the discount here was 30%.

It seems like the cross-border tax would be half-priced.

Even though it's half-priced, it is still a substantial 10 times for me.

So naturally I couldn't help but grin.

Of course, I've leveled up my Commoner job quite a bit so it won't level up so easily now.

But, I want to reach level 99 and get the Peak of Commoner title.

We could enter the town smoothly without the need to wait in line.

We were able to enter but ... hnn – .

Carol called out to me when I was troubled.

“What's wrong?”

“It's painful how my level didn't rise even by paying 105 sense.”

I didn't gain a single level.

105 sense, 400 times of that would equal to about 40 thousand sense worth of experience points.

In Japanese yen, it would be a tax of roughly 4 million yen.

“400 times of that would be ... master, what is your Commoner level?”

“72.”

Carol asked with her head tilted.

“Wha wha ... just how much tax has Ichino-sama paid??”

“About 1.2 million sense.”

“Hya ... isn’t that an amazingly large sum ...”

“Haru earned it in a day though.”

It wasn’t a memory that was old enough for me to have to recall but I still muttered that while feeling a sense of nostalgia.

Haru who was on the coachman’s seat was wagging her tail and she said in a slightly excited voice.

“That was really fun. I want to go again.”

“It’s better to be moderate in gambling. As expected, it would be bad for Gorsa-san if Haru seriously went for it.”

But then, the current Haru also can’t beat Gorsa-san when he’s serious.

If Haru has superhuman dynamic vision, Gorsa has superhuman technique.

They’re incompatible.

Although I also want to enjoy playing the slots slightly more too.

“Now that I think about it, there were those slot machines right? Do you know who made those?”

“Carol doesn’t know. Carol heard that they’ve been around since about 20 years ago but Carol has not been in a gambling parlour before.”

There were patterns on the slot machines.

Watermelons, melon, the word ‘BAR’ and the character ‘7’.

It’s a bit of trivia but the fruit patterns on the slot machines in Earth originally came from the patterns drawn on chewing gum vending machines.

It's not that I particularly like gambling, I just recalled the knowledge my part-time era friend boasted about, however, if that really is true, then why do the slot machines in this world have fruit patterns as well?

If the slot machines were created in this world first before they were created on Earth, it could be explained by the subconscious intervention mentioned by Koshmar-sama but this time, the order is reversed.

In other words, the slot machines in this world were created by a Wanderer — that is to say, an Earthling.

I wonder why didn't I notice it.

It isn't a case where I can just go: Well, even if that's the case, what about it?

I wonder just how many Earthlings have been to this world?

I've been told that most Wanderers hide their identities and live their lives so I guess I will never know.

Goddess-sama said that 1 person in a billion could reincarnate in the Otherworld.

It feels like a small number if you think of it that way but in actual fact, just like how I received blessings from Koshmar-sama and Torerul-sama, if a single pillar Goddess-sama reincarnated 1 in a billion, with the 6 pillars of Goddess-samas, it would be about 1 in 170 million people huh?

"Master, do we proceed to enter Dakyat?"

"Hmm. Carol, are there any attractions in the border town on this side?"

Carol's knowledge comes into play in this kind of situations.

Since we're already here, I want to see it if there is anything interesting.

"This town's local attraction is the same as the one on Dakyat's side, a stone bridge said to be the longest in the world that we would definitely have to pass through when we cross the border."

"A stone bridge as attraction huh? Well, it's probably amazing."

I wonder what is the most popular stone bridge in Japan?

Perhaps the Megane Bridge?

Well, it would be suspension bridges after all if you think of bridges in Japan.

The length of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, at least at the time I came to this world, is said to be the world's longest suspension bridge.

"Yeah. It is staggering in a sense."

Hearing Carol's words with hidden meaning that she said with a smile, I didn't ask any further.

The way Carol said it meant that something would be able to surprise me.

I'll obediently entertain her.

By advancing in a straight line all the way after the town entrance, there was a wooden door to the bridge.

Due to the door, I couldn't see the entirety of the bridge but the width was very wide.

Carol and I alighted from the carriage and conveyed that we were Peddlers and the contents of our goods.

Lastly, Carol placed her hands on a crystal and it lit up green and we paid 300 sense for the cross-border tax.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

Great, level up!

Commoner became Lv73.

“I have definitely received the correct amount. Also, I think it would be impossible but please do not shop on the bridge.”

After the checking station door opened — at that time I saw —

“What the heck is that?”

I was truly surprised.

The bridge was about 10 meters wide and it’s length was about 2 kilometers long.

An outrageous sight was portrayed in front of my eyes somewhere on that huge bridge.

There was —

“Why is there a town ... on the bridge.”

A town lined with numerous stalls was spread before my eyes.

Side Story Awakening

Two days before Ichinojo and group arrived at the border town.

Centaur's movements were extremely jaunty.

It was cheerfully eating the bait.

The 2 people riding on Centaur entered the territory of Dakyat.

And, the 2 people had outrageous appearances.

Jofre had a heroic figure with his body covered in golden armour and he had a golden sword.

And Elise was wrapped in a silver robe and held a metallic whip.

What happened to the 2 of them?

"My Hero's ability have awakened, Elise."

"My Monster Master's ability have also awakened, Jofre."

For the time being, the 2 of them laughed joyfully.

(066) Town atop the bridge

“Sorry for keeping silent about it.”

Carol said but she didn't look sorry, rather, she showed a smile like a delighted child who succeeded in a prank.

“Don't worry, I was able to be genuinely surprised because you kept quiet about it. Thanks ... so, why is there a town here?”

Town ... right, it was a town.

Even though I called it a town, it didn't have housing-type buildings but not only were there numerous stalls and shops lined up, there were also what looked like simple rest areas.

“Ichino-sama, this is not a town. It is not recognized as a town. The reason being, this place does not belong to neither Arundel nor Dakyat.”

That's true, at the moment, I have left Arundel and have not entered Dakyat. I see, this place certainly does not belong to either country's territory.

“Living on the bridge is not recognized and securing buildings to the bridge is also not recognized but trade is recognized. Originally, this place was for the sake of transactions between Merchants from Arundel and Merchants from Dakyat. Using that system, children who came here to sell fishes they fished from the river appeared. From then on, bento shops, souvenir shops, general

stores and many stalls opened shop one after the other and it reached to today's state. There's no need to pay taxes when doing business here so it's a heavenly location for Merchants."

"Wow ... but, since you mentioned that living here is not recognized, where do the shopkeepers stay? If they have to pay the cross-border tax every time they return home, no matter how good it is to not have to pay taxes when doing business, won't it be harsh for them?"

"Ichino-sama will understand if you look below the bridge."

Listening to Carol, I peeked under the bridge.

Underneath the foot of the bridge, there were many raft-like structures with small huts built on them.

Rope ladders descended down from the bridge to those rafts.

A brown-skinned girl wearing T-shirt and shorts appeared from within one of the houses, grabbed the rope ladder and began climbing it.

So they take up residence there and do business on the bridge huh?

What indomitable merchants.

I confirmed that and returned to the carriage.

"Nevertheless, what an interesting town. I'd like to take a while and take a look."

"Okay. Then, let's stop the carriage and tour the place."

"There's even stables!?"

"Yes. But it's slightly expensive though."

No matter how I think about it, grass won't grow around this area so won't that just take up space?

The place Carol guided us to was after advancing just slightly into the bridge.

There, I entrusted Fuyun and the carriage to them.

With an additional fee, they would bring the carriage to the stable on Dakyat's side so I requested for that.

The stable owner gave a wry smile when Haru firmly told Fuyun: "Listen to what this man says okay? But if he brings you to a strange place, please rampage when that happens."

Tentatively, to prevent crime, I returned the goods into my item bag.

"That's right, I'll pass these to the 2 of you."

I took out drawstring bags and passed them to the 2 of them.

"Master, this gold is for?"

"It's gold to enjoy this place. 1000 sense a person."

"It's way too much."

Yup, 10 silver coins, thinking in terms of Japanese yen, it would be 100 thousand yen after all.

There aren't anybody who carries 100 thousand yen to walk around festival stalls.

It certainly feels like we're touring as rich people.

“Look, thanks to Carol we were able to save 4500 sense cost price so it’s fine for you to use the money freely at times like this. If you don’t finish using it, it’s also good for you to save it. Also, Carol definitely has to be together with either me or Haru.”

“Ichino-sama, aren’t you treating Carol like a child? Even if Carol looks like this, Carol will soon be 17 years old you know?”

Carol pouted.

I seriously treated her as a child.

While thinking if I did something bad,

“Master is just worried about Carol.”

Haru explained.

Yup. Nice follow-up.

“Master won’t worry about me because I have half-baked strength so I’m jealous of Carol.”

Haru said so sounding slightly depressed.

Wait, isn’t this dangerous?

Is this the flag where when together with 2 girls, I must treat them equally?

... I often see protagonists in games or anime travel together with 5 or 6 girls but I wonder how many more times of hardship do they face compared to what I’m facing currently?

“Ah ... yeah, since it’s the first town we’re visiting together after all, why don’t we tour it together? I’ll feel lonely by myself anyway.”

“”Yes ♪””

Thus, it was decided that we would walk together.

There were many food-based stalls, truly like the stalls in temple festivals.

Since the 3 of us bought sandwiches that slightly resembled hamburgers with grilled meat and lettuce sandwiched in bread for 4 sense each together with water-filled bottles, we looked around the city while eating and walking.

There was a shop with accessories and dolls made from wood and the 2 girls were chatting.

I thought to myself, as expected of girls to talk about such things but,

“This brooch is only 3 sense!? It’s made from a shell but the design workmanship is intricate. If we buy all the stock and sell it ... it’ll definitely have to be in that town if we’re to sell it.”

“This wooden doll — looks like the wooden doll in the royal castle. I wanted to have the doll as my sword practice opponent when I grew up. Shopkeeper, do you have any large dolls around this size?”

“Erm, please give me all of these brooches. Yes, all of them. Also, if you have something like a certificate saying that they are purchased from this city, please sell that to me too. Yes, information on suppliers is the information that other merchants want the most.”

“This is the largest size huh ... hn – , too bad. Hn – , I have no choice but to make my own by assembling logs. I guess I’ll need to have this doll as a model. Excuse me, this wooden doll ... eh? Piru-chan? It has such a name? It would be difficult to cut it after giving it a name but well, it might serve as good practice too. Please give me one.”

... Eh?

It's completely different from the conversations I imagine between girls during shopping though?

Was this always how girls shop?

Looking at Haru carry the 1 meter tall wooden doll with care and Carol's satisfied expression carrying cloth bags filled with shell brooches, I had a question mark float above my head as I tilted my head.

After heading into the center of the bridge, street performance-style exhibitions and event shops became more numerous.

There were stone chairs lined up so we sat there and watched the street performances.

The William Tell type of exhibition where a person used a bow and arrow to pierce through an apple placed on a person's head was quite impressive.

However, the man shooting the arrow was 【Archer: Lv23】 so well, skill correction most likely came into play.

Incidentally, the exhibition was done by a shop selling apples and one could buy 10 apples with 20 sense. Carol said that it was slightly expensive but mentioned that the higher price was due to the wrapping.

Among the shops, there were also shops with little customers.

" ... This is ... "

I sent a quizzical look to the item placed in that shop.

A silver sword pierced into a rock.

There was a signpost placed in front of it, with the history of the sword written on it.

【Legendary sword that can only be drawn by heroes — Excalibur.】

(067) Summoning Magic by an Archmage

Excalibur?

The name of the legendary sword somehow sounded like a sham.

“Welcome, customer. Do you wish to challenge it? The challenge fee is but 1 sense you know?”

The shopkeeper who said that was a fair-skinned beauty who looked like she had just slightly past 20 years of age. Although it was the same girl who climbed up the rope ladder from the house below the bridge, despite wearing a T-shirt and shorts at that time, she now had beautiful clothes on and the feeling of poverty could not be felt.

“Challenge ... ?”

“You don’t know? This sword is the legendary sword that only heroes can draw. If you draw this sword, your heroic strength would be awakened and your body will be filled with enormous power. An idiot from somewhere who could not pull the sword out crushed the stone around it and carried it away. Of course, nobody could use a sword in such a form so it flowed from place to place until finally reaching here. If you intend to challenge it, do pull it after properly looking at the signpost in front.”

I see. So it’s such an event huh.

The 3 of us looked at the sword and the signpost and spoke our respective opinions.

“This sword, according to Metal Appraisal, it’s material is iron but it shines silver so maybe there’s something painted on?”

“Master, at the lowest line on the signpost written in small print: 【If you pull the sword out you must buy it. The price is 1000 sense.】”

“Iron sword huh. If that’s the case then the normal price would be about 500 sense. So it’s a profit of 500 sense huh.”

After hearing our opinions, the Onee-san pulled out a smile and,
“Ah, sorry, Excalibur is just a practice sword. This is the real thing!”

This time, she brought out a wooden staff stuck in a rock.
The tip of the staff had a red shining jewel inlaid and it looked very expensive.

“This is the Rod of Aklapios. It’s a staff that enhances the wielder’s magical power.” *(TL: Asclepius – Greek god of medicine, healing, rejuvenation, and physicians. His serpent entwined staff is the symbol of medicine you see today.)*

... A staff that boosts magical power you say ...

It’s not made of metal so I won’t be able to tell but well, it’s most likely a counterfeit.

I bet a clause for coerced purchase like the ‘Purchase for 1000 sense if you pull it out’ is similarly written on the signpost placed in front of it.

“This! Isn’t this the Rod of Aklapios!”

Suddenly, a third party spoke from behind us.

It was a woman clad in black, with a black triangle cap and mantle, a black shirt and a black scarf. Furthermore, she had a black mask on that covered the area around her eyes.

It was a onee-san of seemingly similar age as the shopkeeper.

The onee-san spoke in a loud voice,

“My name is Marina, the greatest Archmage in the world. Shopkeep, I want you to hand over this staff by all means! I will pay if it is gold you wish for!”

“I’m sorry, customer. Because it has been ruled that this staff can only be passed to the person who pulls this staff out.”

“If that’s the case, please give me a chance to challenge it.”

The onee-san who named herself Marina passed 1 copper coin to the female shopkeeper and focused her strength.

However, she couldn’t pull the staff out.

Marina’s hands were shaking so it would seem that she was putting in considerable strength.

After about 3 minutes of challenging it, Marina hung her head as if having given up.

“Ah ... it seems like it is impossible for me. Even though this staff is a staff that I would even pay 50000 sense for. I wonder if anybody will represent me to pull this staff out?”

“Unfortunately, until today, nobody has succeeded in pulling this staff out. How about it, onii-san and friends? Earlier I mistakenly prepared the practice use sword so as service I’ll let you try once for free.”

“Is that so, are you challenging it too? If you can pull the staff out, 50000 sense, no, I wish to buy it off from you for 100 thousand sense! Of course, I’ll

also prepare a contract.”

I see.

Thinking about it normally, if I can pull the staff out, paying 1000 sense and selling it to the Onee-san for 50000 sense would be great.

I won't lose anything if I can't pull it out.

“Master, shall I challenge it?”

“No, Haru, wait a moment.”

I stepped one step towards Marina,

“Onee-san, are you really a Magician?”

“Of course. If you want, I can show you my ultra magic — Space Magic and Summoning Magic?”

“”Summoning Magic!?””

Carol and Haru exclaimed.

Apparently, Summoning Magic is a unique job skill in this world so only a few people can use it.

Furthermore, Space Magic huh. I certainly also yearn for instantaneous movement and space storage.

“Even though you haven't actually requested to see it, I'll show it to you! Since the gallery have gathered in anticipation.”

When the onee-san raised her hands flat and spun around, a silk hat-like hat appeared from nowhere.

“”Amazing! Is that Summoning Magic!?””

“N, no, that was ... sorry, that was just the opening act! From now on, you all will lay eyes on the super magic of the century! Take a look, inside this silk hat that does not have anything within it!”

The onee-san said and covered the silk hat with a cloth.

Then, she chanted something like an incantation.

【According to his land, his time and his contract, appear, king of the skies, now is the time for you to show your form! Summon Bird!】

As soon as she recited that, she removed the cloth — 3 doves appeared within the hat that shouldn't have anything in it and took off.

” ... Impossible!? Doves appeared at where there wasn't anything! It's Summoning Magic!”

“Unbelievable, it's a miracle! A miracle happened! Normally, Summoning Magic will only summon one each time but she summoned multiple birds at the same time.”

“Genius. It's a genius magician!”

The gallery applauded as the onee-san waved her hat and collected the offered coins.

“It's amazing right, master. I never imagined that I would be able to see

Summoning Magic with my own eyes.”

“Carol also, Carol thought that she was in cahoots with the shopkeeper but it looks like she really is a genuine Archmage.”

... Eh?

Are the people here seriously saying that?

Just now ... no matter how I look at it, it's just a simple 'sleight of hand' trick?

I mean, her job isn't Magician either.

It's 【Street Performer Lv29】.

Secondly, by showing some pretend Space Magic, the cheers erupted. The coin donations were flying in.

Yup, although it was impressive skill, it's still a sleight of hand after all.

It's just like a teleporting playing card magic trick.

The pigeons flying in the sky circled around.

The skies were blue.

I waited for a while until the audience dispersed.

All that remained were the 3 of us, the pleased-looking Marina who earned a mountain of coins and the onee-san who was originally doing her business here.

“How was it? What are your opinions on my great magic?”

“Nope, isn’t it just a simple sleight of hand?”

I said to Marina who was proudly boasting.

Marina stiffened.

“Master, what is sleight of hand?”

Haru asked.

“Instead of magic, it is a technique relying on manual dexterity to make it seem like a paranormal phenomenon happened. For example, by hiding pigeons or such in your sleeves, you can make it seem like they appeared from within the hat as you pull off the cloth.”

“But, 3 doves flew out at the same time?”

“If you fold their wings in and tuck them in, pigeons will look very much smaller compared to when you look at them normally. Since pigeons are creatures with bodies mostly made up of feathers after all. You can try looking inside her sleeves, I believe there would definitely be fallen feathers.”

The moment I said that, Marina instantly made a gesture to hide her sleeves. At that moment, her black scarf slipped ... and a slave collar could be seen.

” ... I see, as there is a slave contract, everything will be invalidated if the master just states that the slave acted without his permission and the master will not be implicated. So it’s a scam using that system.”

“Eh, so there was such a system?”

By speaking up until that point, the shopkeeper onee-san raised her 2 hands,

“I surrender, it’s our defeat. Oh man, you’re good, onii-san and friends. Anybody can reasonably see through the first sword but I didn’t think that anybody would be able to see through the second act. Ahaha, even though the day before yesterday, an idiotic couple bought everything, the Excalibur sword and armour set as well as the metallic whip that was said to maybe awaken the power of a Monster Master and a robe merely painted with silver, today’s such an unlucky day.” *(TL: So the previous sword was called Excalibur because Excalibur was bought by Jofre lol)*

” ... You’re acting surprisingly innocent.”

“Ah well. Since I didn’t lie at all. Even this staff, it really does raise magical power. Only to the extent of 1% though.”

The onee-san said so, pulled the staff from the stone and tapped her own shoulder as she said.

“The one who said that she wants to buy the staff is Marina there, it has nothing to do with me.”

“So cruel ... didn’t you say you were my friend.”

“Be quiet, stranger anxiety.”

The onee-san pulled off Marina’s mask.

When that happened, her Japanese (Mongoloid) eyes were revealed and she crouched in panic as if to hide her eyes. Her face was beet red.

“Hau ... Please, return it, please return my mask, Kannon.”

“Give me half of the coin donations if you want me to return it, Malina. Who do you think feed and raised a Wanderer like you?”

The 2 of them got along well together as they competed for the mask.

Eh?

“Wait a moment, erm, I don’t know if you’re Marina or Malina but you, are you perhaps ...” *(TL: She introduced herself asマリーナ while Kannon called herマリナ. Both the same pronunciation just with a longer ‘ri’ drag for the former. I’ll use Marina to indicate the former while Malina for the latter since ... I prefer Marina and it’s what the author used for the volume title so I’ll stick to that as her name.)*

I said in amazement.

“A Japanese?”

(068) Delivery destination Feruit town, the new baggage is a street performer

“Eh ... erm, you too ... that ... erm.”

Marina glanced at me repeatedly from behind the shadow of the female shopkeeper — Kannon.

... It felt like her personality was totally different from before.

“I’m also a Wanderer.”

“I see ... erm ... yes, erm.”

We’re totally not conversing.

When I thought so, Kannon sighed as she returned the black mask she took onto Marina.

As a result, her expression changed,

“Oo, I didn’t expect to meet a fellow countryman in such a remote place. I’ll disregard your act of suddenly referring to me as ‘you’. Let us drink fine sake together till we’re intoxicated tonight to celebrate our reunion.” (TL: The ‘you’ used is a term used to call people of equal or inferior status.) ” ... Kannon ... I’d like to ask just one thing, Marina is ...”

“Yeah, she has a fear of strangers to the extremes. When she puts on the mask enchanted with magic to treat shyness, her personality changes. Her real

name is Malina but when she's in this personality she calls herself Marina."

A mask enchanted with magical power?

... It's just a mask no matter how I look at it though ... maybe she's been tricked?

Nevertheless, it's fine if it really treats her fear of strangers even if she's deceiving her so I'll keep quiet about it.

"Marina, are you a slave? If you're a Japanese then you should have received some special blessing so you shouldn't have had to struggle to live?"

"Yup. It wasn't a struggle. My blessing is the ability to release unique jobs, in other words, I can cause the ability of an Archmage to bloom — Ah ... Kannon, please ... mask ... return it."

Kannon snatched the mask and Marina ... no, Malina sat down on the spot weakly.

"You may have noticed but her job is Street Performer or a specialized job for street performances. It was also the first time I heard of such a job. But, she has this personality ... there's no way she can conduct street performances so she used up her money and became a slave."

" ... Why exactly did you become a Street Performer?"

"To ... Torerul-sama ... when I told Torerul-sama that I wanted a blessing that will allow me to get along with various people ... she chose this job for me because it would be able to get along with a lot of people."

So that's why she became a Street Performer huh.

Rather, Torerul-sama, she definitely chose it irresponsibly.

She most likely didn't think about what would come after.

"Hence, I bought her, gave her a mask that would eliminate her fear as a present and we traveled the world with the 2 of us but ..."

" ... Please, Kannon, don't leave me behind."

"I told you right. I have promised old acquaintances to do certain tasks so I've decided to sell you here. Tentatively, I did mention that I will give Malina your freedom if you earn more than 10000 sense by your performances. Currently, how much have you accumulated?"

"1820 sense ..."

"That means, I will be selling you to the son of the chief at the border town on Dakyat side famous for being a womanizer."

"No ... no way ... I ... I, can't do anything."

"It doesn't matter that you can't do anything. The other party came to me on their own accord."

" ... No way."

Malina was already in tears.

"Ah ... fine, I understand. Then, I'll think about it if you safely finish my errand."

"Errand?"

"Yeah. I was requested to deliver this kitchen knife to the proprietress of the inn living in Dakyat's capital, Feruit. If you return before I finish packing up, I'll bring you along for my journey."

" ... No way ... that is impossible on my own."

Kannon covered Marina with the mask.

Upon doing so, the Malina that had collapsed in tears stood up, pointed at me and declared.

“Fellow countryman there. Descendant of the hero that descended from the land of the rising sun.”

“No, my successive generation of ancestors were common folk. I’m not the descendant of a hero.”

“Such trifle doesn’t matter. How about it? Do you require the escort of an Archmage? If you’re going to Dakyat, if you decide now, I’ll escort you for free.”

I thought for a moment and decided to ignore it,

“Sorry, we’ll manage ourselves.”

and said so. Since she somehow looked like she would be a troublesome child.

“What? Do you still not believe in my ability? If that’s the case, I shall show you my prized trick.”

Saying so, Marina took out 7 balls from her pocket.

Rather, you, you just naturally called it a ‘trick’ yourself!

“With my Floating Magic, I will freely manipulate these 7 balls!”

Saying that, she began tossing the 7 balls.

Upward and downwards, to the left and right, and even behind.

The balls all bounced off the walls and goods and sometimes they collided

against each other but they all returned to her hands.

With those strange ball movements, the scattered gallery reformed.

“How is it, this ball movement as if they are alive!? This is precisely a taboo magic. By injecting transient souls into the inanimate balls, it is a secret art that manipulates balls just like rabbits that leap out and return.”

Er, you, didn't you just say it was Floating Magic just now. Rather, it may be very advanced but it is simply just juggling.

Nevertheless, what's amazing is that those balls were made of wood. Although it seemed like a wood material that is slightly soft, it won't bounce as well as rubber balls.

Despite that, her juggling was perfect.

So this is the true value of a Street Performer huh.

Five minutes later, there was a Marina with a pleased expression collecting the mountain of copper coin donations.

“How is it, my super magic?”

“Even if you ask me for my opinion ...”

“I'll ask of you too. This girl, she's like this when she has her mask on but originally she was apparently a Hikikomori girl with stranger anxiety. I'll be worried if she goes on an errand on her own. I'll even give you the Rod of Aklapios as present if you agree now.”

That is definitely a rip-off of the Rod of Asklepios. Furthermore, it's quite sloppy.

If I searched the search engines for the Rod of Aklapios,

【Rod of Asklepios was found. Do you wish to re-submit your search as Rod of

Asklepios?】

it's a rip-off to the extent that something like that would occur.

The 1% increase in magical power is also dubious.

To be honest, 1% can be treated as within the range of error depending on a person's physical condition on that day.

“Ha~ ... well, I have various things I want to ask about so there's no helping it. In exchange, please pay for your own share of the cross-border tax and town entry tax. Also, please do your best on your own to return from Dakyat town to here.”

“Negotiations established. Then, this. The documents that allow you to become this child's master, the kitchen knife, and the letter addressed to that proprietress. Properly deliver it okay.”

“Is there a need to become Marina's owner?”

“She won't be able to cross the country border if she's not with her master because she would be suspected of being a runaway slave right?”

If that's the reasoning, then how would she return?

Would she be able to cross the border with her owner not present?

Or, would we have to look after her for the return trip as well?

I'll definitely not want that.

“Haru, Carol, so she would be joining us for now but well, she doesn't look like a bad person anyway.”

I guess there won't be any issues with just bringing her along.

The 2 of them also agreed.

“By the way, is it alright to leave the doves alone?”

“Eh? Aaaa! Please come back! Taro! Hanako! Ichiro!”

Marina waved both her hands grandly towards the sky.

After that, it took about 10 minutes for the doves to return and we, with one additional Street Performer, rode the horse carriage and headed towards Dakyat.

Side Story The Real Identity of Kannon

Once the horse carriage Ichinojo and others were on was out of sight, Kannon collected her goods and deftly climbed down the rope ladder that was lowered off the bridge.

Incidentally, she sank the rocks that were used to house the sword and staff to the bottom of the river.

She thought that since they were rocks that were originally picked up from there, it was not an act that anybody could blame her for.

Then, when she was about to enter the small hut built on the floating wood tied in the style of a raft, Kannon noticed a presence inside.

“I remember telling you to wait until tomorrow.”

Swelling with anger, Kannon spoke to the man inside through the door.

Then, the door opened.

Inside was a red-haired man wrapped in a black mantle.

As he hated the sun the most, his skin was white to the point of being pale.

No matter how much he's told that it was an awful farce for him to have hair red like the sun, he really liked that hair color.

Due to that, he did not cut his hair for a couple of hundred years, causing it to extend to around the middle of his back and it was tied up using a thread of dragon's beard.

"It's been a long time, third general of the Demon Lord army, Vampire Earl Valf."

"It's been a long time. You've sure become good at mimicking humans, Devil Kannon."

At the same time he said that, Valf's malice strengthened, causing the 2 horns that Kannon was hiding to appear.

"One corner of the seal on Demon Lord-sama has been lifted. I've told you that we don't have time. If your business is completed then hurry up and begin your work. You have an order from Field Marshal-dono to investigate the Arundel Kingdom. I will have you immediately embark on it."

"What will Earl be doing?"

"I have business to take care of in Dakyat. Even now I have new pawns that are moving for me." *(TL: 'I' said with a nuance of arrogance – Wagahai)*

"New pawns ... are you using humans as toys again to play around with? What a disgusting hobby."

"Aren't you the same? Did she say Malina? She's an interesting talent. I also want to obtain a chess piece like her."

When Valf said that, Kannon's malice swelled.

Valf's pupil which were black were dyed red as blood.

"You will not be let off lightly if you put your hands on Malina."

"It seems like you take a fancy to humans quite a lot. Very well. Even though she has an unusual job, it's a strange job that is not suited for battle. I'll leave her be. Don't forget, Kannon. Demon Lord-sama's resurrection is close."

Valf left with those words and his figure disappeared with black smoke.

Then, Kannon who was alone snorted and said.

"Naturally, I know such a thing even if you don't mention it."

(069) What happens twice will happen thrice

The first thing that I saw when we entered Dakyat was the statue of the Valkyrie-like figure.

I've seen it once in the church in Belasra.

If I remember correctly, she is called Setolance-sama. (TL: I translated her name as Setolans-sama but I'll be changing it to this one given how the author describes it later)

It was a stone statue so I could not imagine the colours but her figure dressed in mantle and armour, as well as the long sword held in her hand, was exactly that of a female warrior.

Haru did mention that she was the Goddess-sama who governs over battles and victory ...

(I've thought about it previously too but it would fit Setolance-sama better if she held a lance instead.) (TL: Setolance, get it? lance)

and such idiotic thoughts went through my mind.

Incidentally, an offertory box was gently placed in front of the Goddess statue.

“In the Kingdom of Arundel, the state religion encompasses the faith in all Goddess-sama of the 6 pillars but in Dakyat, the teachings of Setolance is the state religion. She’s the Goddess of Battles and Victory. It is said that it came about because the majority of this country’s citizens are nomads so since from long ago, the chances they come across monsters is higher compared to other country’s citizens and fighting has become a part of their lives.”

As usual, Carol showed that she has extensive knowledge.

Incidentally, because Korat is an agricultural powerhouse, Koshmar-sama’s Goddess statues are apparently built in various towns of theirs.

Even though I am grateful towards Koshmar-sama, I was glad that we chose this country instead. As expected, I would only be able to give strained smiles if I see the figure of that statue placed everywhere.

Nevertheless, we've safely crossed the border and entered the town but my Commoner level has not increased at all. It seriously has become harder to level up.

If I'm not mistaken, Haru is a devotee that holds Setolance-sama in high esteem so including Carol, the 3 of us gave monetary offerings and prayed.

By the way, for certain reasons, Marina had holed herself up alone within the carriage.

"Nevertheless, to think that there would be so much change just by crossing the border. The scenery has changed to great plains in an instant."

Currently, we were still within the town but since the fences surrounding the town were low, I could clearly see outside the town.

“Sosososososo, sorry, could you please return my mask soon?”

Marina appealed in tears. She seems to be a Japanese like me but we’ve still have not had a decent conversation together.

Today, I confiscated her mask.

After all, this girl, it was quite dangerous during the country entry examination.

『I am the Archmage Marina! I am the holy warrior who has descended to this world to defeat the great Demon Lord together with the hero, remember it well. Entry reasons? That’s right, while I escort this carriage with my great magic, we head to the capital with a deadly weapon to achieve an important —』

She ended up saying all that before I snatched her mask away and we were allowed to pass after I told them our purpose as Peddlers and that we were merely requested to deliver a kitchen knife to an inn in Feruit.

“After we hand this over, you would definitely say something stupid in the Adventurers Guild as well. So stay put until we’re done with that. Also, don’t go around saying that you’re going to defeat the great Demon Lord.”

Firstly, the Demon Lord in this world has already been defeated by the hero. It’s impossible to defeat an opponent that has already been defeated.

Secondly, Haru feels indebted to the Demon Lord. It doesn’t sit well with me to let her say bad things about the Demon Lord in front of her.

Thirdly, we, who are around her, would be seen as fools as well.

Hence, I had decided to make Marina remain as she was now.

I’ll try to keep it moderate though.

Since she’s been crying the whole time.

Entrusting the carriage to the stables, we headed towards the Adventurers

Guild.

We passed by the Adventurers Guild once before arriving at the stables so we knew the way.

It was already the third time I've been to the Adventurers Guild.

Passing through the door, it was as if it's a tavern after all, with how the tables and chairs were arranged.

"Do you have any business with the Adventurers Guild? Or are you here only to dine?"

A pointed eared green hair onee-san asked.

She's most probably an elf.

It seems like this place serves as both a cafeteria and an Adventurers Guild.

“We’ve come to apply for a party. Also ... I think we would also like to get some drinks.”

We had our lunch at the stalls so I wasn’t hungry.

“Well then, this way please.”

The 3 of us sat down on our seats but for some reason, Marina didn’t sit down.

“Marina, are you not going to sit?”

“Eh ... erm ... is it alright?”

“Of course it is ... wait, ah, is it because usually, slaves don’t get to sit on chairs?”

Now that I think about it, Haru was also bewildered when I asked her to sit on a chair for the first time.

“Slaves usually stand or sit on the floor. Like how it is there.”

Carol flicked her gaze towards the table at the back. There was a Magician-type man with a Swordsman-type slave standing behind him.

“Sitting on a chair with the same height holds the meaning of having a meal on equal footing. Carol heard from Haru-san that Ichino-sama prefers to have meals while seated in similar chairs so I respectfully sit as well.”

“So that’s the reason huh. I believe Marina understands me since we’re Japanese, I don’t really understand that culture. You can sit.”

” ... Thank ... you.”

Marina sat while still staring downward.

Well then.

In Florence, I tangled with adventurers because of Haru.

In Belasra, I tangled with adventurers who wanted to steal the brown bears.

As expected of third time's the charm.

I guess nobody would tangle with us here.

Just when I thought that,

“Ouou, onii-chan. What are you doing getting served by 3 slave girls.”

“Come share one with us.”

“A therithro’s sore appearance or a loli girl huh. Don’t worry, we hate discrimination after all. No matter who’s the opponent, our Magnum would be in top form after all.”

Three men with indecent smiles came to tangle with us.

I recalled the proverb that what happens twice will happen thrice.

It seems like to otherworld people, the Adventurers Guild is some sort of place to avoid.

Side Story Request to the Failures

Red short haired, freckled boy Julio.

Black haired, short bespectacled boy Sutchino.

Happening in front of the 2, was the largest incident that happened since the founding of the Secret Society Massacre.

It was yesterday when a request came in unexpectedly for the Secret Society Massacre.

The vice president Sutchino arbitrarily accepted the request.

Normally, Julio would be enraged by the act of disregarding him, the leader, by proceeding with the talks without him but ultimately the person who takes the brunt of his anger, Sutchino, would appease him and the incident would be settled. That should have been how it would have played out.

However, it was different today.

That was because in front of them were 2 gold coins.

Gold coin ... if one lived frugally, it was a large amount that one could survive on for a year.

Seeing the 2 gold coins placed down, the cowardly by nature Julio hurriedly hid the gold coins and looked at the surroundings.

They were at a corner of the tavern. It was the shop Sutchino's father operates so he usually works there.

Apparently, it was currently his break time and he sat in front of Julio.

" ... It's not fake?"

"Nope, it's real. Furthermore, this is the advance payment and the completion payment is 18 gold coins! He even introduced himself as an Earl from some place, it's amazing. It's the greatest job Secret Society Massacre has undertaken since the founding."

"Amazing! It's 20 gold coins in total. Very well, let's quickly gather all the

members —”

“Wait, Julio. Consider if we gather everyone. If we do that, the gold coins would have to be equally split among everyone. If 10 people do the job then each person gets 2 gold coins. But, if only the 2 of us do it? We’ll get 10 gold coins each!”

10 gold coins versus 2 gold coins, such a thing can’t even be placed on equal scales.

Anybody who can count would be able to tell which would have the greater value.

Even so, Julio was a little reluctant.

The responsibility as a leader and the sense of guilt towards betraying his companions ... he felt absolutely none.

“The 2 of us meaning it’s a job that can be done with just 2 people?”

The problem was the contents of the job.

If it's a job that can only be done by relying on numbers, he'll have no choice but to convene all the members to do the job.

He calculated in his wicked head that at that time, he could lie that the reward is 2 gold coins and he could allocate 20 silver coins per person while after he uses his own 20 silver coins to hold a large banquet, Sutchino and he can split the remaining 9 gold coins.

"The request is extremely simple. It is only to dedicate this black globe in front of the Goddess statue in the west dungeon."

"The dungeon that beginners head to huh. It's a place we go to frequently. Certainly, it's no wonder they requested for us if it's to go there."

For Julio's Secret Society Massacre, once a week, to strengthen the members, they would split into 2 groups of 5 and stroll through the west dungeon to hunt monsters and earn small change.

As a country managed dungeon, the dungeon will not be opened except for when the soldiers enter for training 3 times a month.

However, by confirming the scheduled day for the son of the laundry place, Gurutchi, to collect the laundry from the barracks, the son of the locksmith,

Julio, can open the dungeon and sneak in.

The reason why Sutchino didn't monopolize the deal and talked with Julio was by no means because of his loyalty to Julio but because Julio's lockpicking skill was required.

"Nevertheless, the person sure is a great guy."

"By the way, what's the name of the person who made the request?"

"If I'm not mistaken, Vanf? No, perhaps it's Valf?"

(070) Big Second-sensei's work

An idiotic trio came to tangle with us.

I looked at the jobs of the 3 of them.

【Axe-user Lv13】

【Swordsman Lv9】

【Cat-user Lv21】

Oi! A strange job was mixed within!

What the heck is a Cat-user!

The foremost person, a skinhead old man with the most threatening face was the Cat-user.

If an Axe-user is a job that attacks using axes, does a Cat-user use cats to attack?

Would he release something like 'Killer move, unbearable for people with cat allergies, Cat Hair Storm!'

I still can't see the end to this world's jobs.

"Oi, you bastard, what are you being absent-minded about."

The Cat-user glared at me.

"Nothing. Sorry but these 2 are my cherished companions. This girl is also an important entrusted good so please go hit on other people."

"Aa, what's a scrawny brat like you saying. You, you're the owner of these right. Since that's the case, if you don't want to get hurt, obey me. Get them to

service us 3. If you do that, I'll turn a blind eye to you."

"Look here, I've said that we're feeling tired since we camped out last night right? For god's sake go do your troublesome act somewhere else. Also, I'll only say this, if you tangle with us anymore I won't show any mercy."

I was seriously tired.

Ruminating on my own words, these people who misunderstand that they're stronger would definitely swing at me.

Just as I was having that thought — he really swung at me. Way too easy to read.

Hence, towards the fist that was swung at me, I struck back with my own fist.

I was sitting on a chair while the man was standing.

Looking at the posture and physique, it was as clear as day who would win.

In fact, the match ended in an instant.

However, obviously, the result was the complete opposite of what the people around imagined.

“Ugyaaaaa!”

The Cat-user man collapsed backward while holding his wrist and writhed in pain.

The bones in some of his fingers most likely cracked. There was a dull sensation.

A thin book fell out from the man’s pocket.

“You’re noisy, I’ll treat you so keep quiet.”

I took the man’s wrist and chanted 「Petit Heal」.

Pale light wrapped around the man's fist.

" ... It doesn't hurt anymore ... thank you?"

The surroundings raised voices of surprise and admiration to my Healing magic like 'To be able to use such skillful Taijutsu and Healing magic at such a young age'.

Seriously. Even though I've told myself that I don't want to stand out, I end up doing actions that make me stand out like a protagonist.

Then, I picked up the book that had fallen down ... and was speechless.

"What the heck, this ... why is there such a thing?"

I held the book in trembling hands.

“Master, that is an item banned by the church. Just holding on to that book constitutes a crime.”

“It’s likely to be equivalent to 10 silver coins in the underground route but ... it might be better to return it to the church.”

“Hawawawa.”

The 3 girls looked at the book I picked up.

Eh? This is a church prohibited item?

Equivalent to 10 silver coins through the underground route?

That’s a lie, right?

Possibly because the men thought that it was bad that the book was

discovered, they ran away at full speed.

Certainly, the gazes from women would likely be painful if it is known that they carry this book.

But, this was ... that, right?

Self-published works (Doujinshi) right? Moreover, it's the type that those below 18 years old can't read.

Flipping it through, I saw the relationship of two-dimensional manga-type characters.

Within it, there was a scene where the man had a phrase like "Because my Magnum is in top form." and the girl was delighted.

... Who was the one who spread the word 'Magnum' ... I thought but this was a parody though.

“Who wrote this!”

I flipped to the last page at once.

Publisher: Comic Step

Author: Big Second

Yup, it’s clearly a pen name. Even so, I’ll remember the name just in case.

“For the time being, I’ll dispose of such an outrageous book — ”

I kept the doujinshi into my item bag,

“Why is an ero doujinshi a church prohibited item? The law in this world sure is pretty strict.”

I wonder if laws like those against child pornography also exist?

As I had that thought,

“Erm, apparently, that author initially drew entertainment picture books that many enjoyed but ... without noticing, the author began drawing many books targeted at adults and finally even drew stories involving relationships between Goddess-samas ... causing the church to collect all the books and it became contraband.”

“Of course they would ban it. Seriously, who would do such a stupid thing ... Big Second huh.”

There shouldn't be any print shops and no copiers either. There's likely not to be screentone and, in the first place, this is a world where white paper is invaluable.

Seriously, what was the person thinking to draw such a doujinshi?

” ... Erm ... master. Is Big Second the name of the person who drew this book?”

Haru asked with a slightly astonished expression which turned into a somewhat let down expression.

“Yeah, that is what’s written there.”

“That person ... I probably have an idea who he is.”

“Eh?”

“It’s probably ... Daijiro-sama.”

“Eeeh!? Daijiro-san? That’s a lie right!?”

That person is a huge benefactor to me you know!?

I find it hard to believe that person would draw such a stupid book.

“Erm, after Demon Lord-sama was sealed, I was traveling with the heroes for a period of time and at that time I was shown a manga? that was drawn by Daijiro-san, if I remember correctly the name of the author of that book was Big Second ... and it was the name Daijiro-sama used when writing books.”

... Daijiro ... big second son, Big Second huh. How easily understandable.

Rather, what kind of person is he exactly?

My benefactor, one of the people who sealed the demon lord with the hero and also someone who writes doujinshi?

His character that I'm imagining is getting blurred way too much.

“No way ... that person drew a book like this.”

Malina muttered despairingly.

After asking, it seemed that Malina was also helped by Daijiro's book.

Incidentally, not a single item bag was left for her. Apparently, even the lamp that was written to be there was not there as well.

Either the Japanese who came before her or a resident of this world coincidentally discovered the secret room and took everything.

I wholeheartedly felt sorry for her.

"Daijiro-san has not been caught right?"

"Carol did not hear that the author was caught. As expected, it would affect the faith in the church if they restrain a person who subdued the demon lord together with the hero so I guess they likely settled it clandestinely."

"I see ... that's relieving."

I asked as I drank the tea that was brought over.

By the way, while more than half of his books are prohibited items, he apparently has a considerable amount of secret fans. Apparently, the secret fans are called Secarians.

The contents were not purely ero, apparently, there were even books with yuri developments and even BL, my understanding of his character became less and less.

As expected, I can't really continue the topic on doujinshi with girls so,

"That's right, I forgot something. Do you all know about the job called Cat-user?"

I asked the 3 of them as if I just recalled it.

However, the 3 of them apparently did not know about the job called Cat-user.

Cat-user ... I seriously wonder what kind of skill does that job use.

I'm really curious.

~

To the west of the grasslands, there were figures walking.

Julio and Sutchino as well as another person.

“Fufufufufufu.”

The short-haired girl held onto multiple sheets of paper as she stared at the 2 people ahead. She was a girl with short hair about the same age as Julio and Sutchino.

That girl looked at the 2 people walking ahead and smiled.

“Sutchi x Juli is great. It’s got to be Sutchi x Juli after all compared to Juli x

Sutchi.”

Chills went down the spine of the 2 people ahead when they heard the girl’s murmurings. Naturally, those 2 people totally did not understand the meaning of those words.

However, they could instinctively tell that it was the worst thing for them.

Her name was Milky.

One of the Secarian affected by the doujinshi drawn by Big Second or also known as Daijiro.

More than half of the doujinshi drawn by Daijiro were prohibited items.

But, there were also books that weren’t prohibited items. Those so-called BL books.

The reason was because it didn’t have the premise for Goddess-sama to appear in them and furthermore, it was in high demand among the noble ladies.

Milky was a reader and was also involved in the making of BL books.

The BL books that were supposed to not be able to be produced in large quantities were printed in large quantities using printmaking techniques and sold.

It was a book of inferior quality compared to the book created by Daijiro but it became very popular among the wives in town and in actual fact, it was also famous as a hidden specialty product in Feruit.

For that reason, Milky had money.

“Hey, why did you bring Milky along?”

Julio complained to Sutchino.

“I’ve told you right. It’s because we don’t know what might be down in the dungeon. That girl is not interested in money and she will act as the main forces.”

“That’s true but walking in front of that girl causes my back muscles to ... tremble.”

“Just bear with something like that.”

While being a Commoner, Milky had earned a large sum of gold and paid a large amount of taxes, causing her Commoner level to rise.

Then, the job she took was Magic Journalist.

Magic Journalists draw magic formations by running their pens, they can create special talismans, create contracts and also have the skill to create grimoires if their level increases.

Although, the ink that Magic Journalists use are highly valuable goods that can only be created by high-level Herbalists.

For that reason, it's a job that can't easily grow if one does not have money.

“Fufufufufu.”

“” tsk! “”

Their spines trembled as Milky was lost in her delusions.

“Shit, we’re surrounded!”

“Surrounded ... no way, why are there hobgoblins here?”

Goblins, demi-human monsters who possess ugly faces.

Twenty hobgoblins with bodies that are slightly bigger than goblins suddenly appeared.

If it was an equal number of opponents, Julio and Sutchino would be able to somehow defeat them but, 20 at one go was considerably dangerous.

“”Milky! Help us!””

They cried out but,

“Gaha, Geki! Hau.”

With the scene of 2 young men hugging each other, she spurted out blood from her nose and collapsed with an ecstatic look.

“”That’s the reason why perverts are ... !”

They once again leaked out complaints.

It would be bad if this continues! Just as the 2 of them thought so,

“Stopp PPPP!”

“Please stoppppp!”

They heard the voices of a man and woman.

Then, appearing before them was a swordsman-like man wearing golden armour and holding a sword as well as a woman wrapped in silver robes and holding a metallic whip.

Those 2 were straddling a slow donkey and rushing towards their direction.

The slow donkey sent 3 Hobgoblins flying in an instant and the remaining hobgoblins fled at full speed after seeing that scene.

At that time, Julio thought.

(... So cool ... it's a hero! A hero arrived!)

Although the one who sent the hobgoblins flying was the slow donkey they were riding that they couldn't control, to Julio, those 2 people were exactly like the heroes he imagined.

Incidentally, the original key player, the slow donkey, was deliciously eating the papers held by Milky who fainted due to a nose bleed.

In this world, high-grade paper is created by Herbalists and the taste was apparently something that slow donkeys find delicious.

“Are you alright? Boy, my name is Jofre! A hero!”

“My name is Elise! A Monster Tamer! This child here is Centaur.”

Two hoodlum boys from the town.

Two idiots.

And a donkey and a pervert.

It was the moment when 5 individuals and an animal who should not

encounter each other, encountered each other.

(071) Marina's status

Although only provisional, after completing the procedure for Malina's party application, we planned to head for an inn but upon asking about the location of the inn, we found out that the Adventurers Guild's second and third floor were inn rooms so we secured 2 twin rooms in the inn there.

We gathered in one of the rooms and I finally asked Malina about herself.

I was seriously contemplating passing the mask to her or not but it seemed like we could not have a proper conversation with the current Malina so I decided to hand the mask to her.

Malina wore the mask,

"Seriously, to treat my mask that can be said to be my life so brusquely."

Just by covering her eyes, Malina became confident. No, Marina.

“I’d like to ask you a few things, when did Marina arrive in this world?”

“I descended down to this land 4 seasons ago.”

“Meaning a year ago?”

“Yes.”

Marina nodded in satisfaction.

She was probably delighted because her words were often not understood due to her way of speaking.

After coming to this world, Marina was born as a Street Performer but due to her shy personality and social anxiety disorder, she could not become successful and was sold to Kannon after being picked up by a slave dealer when she had collapsed and was dying in the streets after becoming broke.

“Have you fought monsters before?”

“With my power, there would not be a need to fight with beings like monsters.”

“Well, Street Performers is not a combat-oriented job.”

“I believe I said that I am an Archmage. If you think it’s a lie, shall I show you my grand magic once again?”

” ... No, you can prepare that performance another time. For the time being, even if it’s provisional, since you have formed a party with us, may I see Marina’s status?”

” ... I refuse.”

“Status open, Marina.”

“I’ve said that I refuse though. Furthermore, even if you say those word, you won’t be able to confirm my status.”

Eh? I really can’t see Marina’s status.

Ah, it’s probably because of that.

Even if she’s called Marina with this appearance, her real name is Malina.

“Status open, Malina.”

Name: Malina Race: Hume

Job: Street Performer Lv29

HP: 79/79 MP: 32/32

Phy Atk: 41 Phy Def: 39

Mag Atk: 54 Mag Def: 49

Speed: 80 Luck: 10 【+20】

【Equipment】

Witch Cosplay Set Ordinary Black Mask

【Skills】

「Street Performance XI」 「Dexterity UP (Large)」 「Rope Escape」

【Acquired Titles】

「Labyrinth Conqueror V」 「Individual loved by scourer」

【Possible Job Changes】

Commoner Lv1 Philanderer Lv1 Musician Lv1 Gambler Lv1

Dancer Lv1 Singer Lv1

【Blessings】

Job 【Street Performer】 released

There're various things I have to retort to.

Leaving aside the status. Her status being much lower compared to the lower-leveled Haru likely meant that hers is not an upper tier job.

The problem is the equipment.

What the heck is a Witch Cosplay Set? It's obviously just cosplay. I'm also surprised that this world has the concept of cosplay.

Furthermore, the mask, as expected, isn't it not a magic tool but just a regular mask? Just because of her assumption that it treats her social anxiety, as a result of forcibly repressing herself, she has probably become a faux chuunibyou character.

The indiscriminate large number of jobs available is likely due to the blessing that released the Street Performer job but the actual usefulness of it is limited.

Even though she possess the 「Dexterity UP (Large)」 skill, she's seriously living a clumsy life.

Leaving aside the skills, with regards to Street Performer, how many types of street performances can it do? It's way too pathetic if the only decent skill is 「Dexterity UP」 and the only other skill is 「Rope Escape」.

Even though she holds a staff, because she doesn't possess the 「Staff Equip」 skill, it does not appear in the equipment list.

However, the one that caught my attention the most was,

“What's with the title ‘Individual loved by scourer’?”

“Umu. It's a title only given to those loved the most by the Goddesses in labyrinths.”

Has she forgotten that she has fallen into her current state precisely because she was treated the most carelessly by the Goddesses?

“Like I asked, what is it?”

“A fascinating title earned by obtaining scourers 5 times in a row, not only will scourers be removed from the bonus in labyrinths, it will also increase the luck stat by 20.”

“You, you cleared labyrinths 5 times and obtained scourers all 5 times huh?”

It should make adventurers who dive into labyrinths countless times joyful to not have to worry about receiving scourers. That is, originally.

“Since it’s said to be about $1/4$ probability to get the scourer for a person with 10 luck, the probability of getting scourers 5 times in a row is below $1/1000$.”

Carol explained how rare the title was.

Yup, it’s definitely a title that I can never obtain in my whole life.

But, even though this person has conquered labyrinths, she’s never fought with monsters.

In other words, Kannon fought alone? Or did she hire escorts?

I believe it's likely to be the latter but if it's the former then she would be considerably strong. Since I thought that she would be a Merchant, I didn't check her job, I'm kind of curious.

“Do you know of any method to get in touch with Japan?”

“I don't. It's been a year since I came here but I've seldom thought of returning to Japan. Moreover, over that side ... as long as there aren't any existences that can be called strong enemies, I would not be able to showcase my magic.”

This girl, she probably meant that she doesn't have any friends in Japan. Don't say such a sad thing.

“Master, so you wish to return to the country called Japan after all?”

Her expression didn't change much but perhaps because we've been together for quite some time, Haru asked with a lonely look.

“No, it’s because I left a younger sister on that side. I only wish to at least let her know that I am fine. It’s too late for me to return to Japan now.”

Since I’ve most certainly been registered as dead on that side.

If I return now, it would cause a commotion as if a ghost had come out.

If that’s the case, then maybe I shouldn’t send Miri a letter too. Since it would probably be eerie to receive a letter from a dead person.

For the time being, I ended our conversation and we spent our own leisure time.

Carol left for town to gather information.

Unlike being on top of the bridge, within the city, it was officially Dakyat’s territory so the public safety was apparently better compared to above the bridge.

Thus, I was could let her go alone with a peace of mind and decided to let her go on her own.

I also thought of going to the city to buy some items but I did roughly purchase all the items we needed just now on the bridge.

“By the way, blacksmithing is flourishing in Dakyat right? Perhaps I should buy blacksmithing paraphernalia.”

” ... Master, what do you mean by blacksmithing tools?”

“Eh? Like a portable furnace, tongs, gloves, and hammers.”

“If a person possesses the Blacksmithing skill, there’s no need for tools. Similar to Alchemy, the material will transform and become a sword. Although it does take time.”

“Seriously!?”

The otherworld sure is amazing.

Well, it probably takes some time though.

“For Blacksmiths, the time needed to make the item and the performance of the item is dependent on the individual’s physical attack and dexterity so I believe master will be able to create equipment at a speed multiple times faster than a regular Blacksmith.”

“That’s helpful. Well, my physical attack stat is high and I have the Dexterity UP (minor) skill so it does seem possible.”

“Hou, so you have confidence in your own strength. Now that I think about it, you did easily defeat those lawless people just now. Well, even though it’s provisional, you must have that level of ability to claim to be my master ... hau ... my mask ... please return my mask.”

Since I was feeling slightly annoyed, I took her mask and held it directly above her and Marina stretched out both arms with tears in her eyes.

My height was taller so she won’t be able to reach no matter how much she stretches her arms.

Hn, looking at this Marina, I feel as if I’m becoming slightly sadistic.

” ... So enviable.”

I felt like I heard Haru who was looking at us mutter something but was it my imagination?

(072) Finding the Hero

In the end, our shopping was complete with just Haru buying some dried meat for snacking (and she was already chewing on one) as well as emergency potions for situations such as MP depletion so we headed towards the Adventurers Guild which was the place we would meet up with Carol.

It was about time we begin to feel hungry but I decided to wait until Carol arrives before ordering food so we ordered drinks and waited.

There was lemonade inside the drinks menu so I ordered that.

“What would you like Haru?”

“I’ll have the same thing.”

“What about Malina? You can have liquor too.”

” ... I’m not really good with liquor ... I’ll have the same too ... rather than that, my mask ... please, my mask.”

Malina is way too reliant on the mask.

However, even with her fear of strangers and social anxiety disorder, this personality has better common sense.

Apart from when I want to ask her something, I'd prefer to leave her like that so I didn't return the mask.

"Rather, Malina's eyes are pretty so it would be a waste to cover it with a mask."

" ... mask."

She's completely not listening to people's words.

After a short while, before the drinks came, Carol arrived.

“Thank you for waiting, master.”

“Welcome back. How was it?”

Carol’s expression wasn’t good. Perhaps she received bad news?

“I have one good news, one bad news and one rumor that’s going around town.”

Three separate intelligence in such a short timespan huh?

” ... Then, we’ll start with the bad. What’s the bad news.”

“A landslide occurred on the valley road in the vicinity of the border town to the south and it appears that it would take some time to clear it. If we’re aiming for Port Kobe, I think it would be faster if we turn back to Islandburg or to Korat.”

Turn back to Islandburg huh?

Looking at Malina's expression, she was shaking her head wordlessly with watery eyes.

It's not like I can toss this person out here.

"We won't be able to sell our spices and iron so it should be better if we head towards Ferruit for now."

"The good news is that the purchasing prices for both spices and iron have risen so we would gain sufficient profit even if we sell them in this town."

Then it's no longer necessary to head to Ferruit.

I once again looked at Malina.

She was already crying. Her tears became droplets whenever she shook her head, causing her tears to splash around.

“Well ... even though I somehow feel like bullying Malina, I do indeed feel sorry for her. Let’s head for Ferruit. A round trip would take about 4 days right? We’re not really in a rush to travel anyway.”

“Uuu ... tha, thank you ... very much.”

Malina thanked me as she drank the lemonade that was just only served while still in tears.

“Then, what about the rumors?”

“Somehow, the hero and his party are also in this town.”

” !?”

Haru’s tail stood up in response to Carol’s words.

Hero huh.

I heard that to Haru, the hero is her enemy that defeated the Demon Lord but consideration towards the hero was also the reason why she was sent to be a slave in a location with relatively better treatment after that.

However, if the hero didn't come, the Demon Lord wouldn't have been subjugated and her father wouldn't have been sentenced to capital punishment.

I guess it's probably complicated.

"Haru, what do you want to do? Do you want to meet the hero?"

If Haru says that she doesn't want to then we'll sleep early today and leave this town the first thing in the morning tomorrow.

So I thought.

"... I think I will meet him."

Haru said as if making her resolve.

“I see. Carol, where’s the hero currently at?”

“Sorry, I don’t know any information about that as of now. But, the hero is apparently gathering some kind of information so it would be fine if we head to a place with a lot of people.”

“A location with a lot of people huh?”

Perhaps we steadily look for them on foot? There seemed to only be 3 inns in total in this town so there’s also the method of staking them out but the rare case of them staying over in an acquaintance’s house instead of an inn is possible.

“Erm, Ichino-san. It’s about time to ... my mask ...”

Malina was still talking about her mask.

This person seriously moves at her own pace ... hmm?

” — That’s it!”

I cried out as I stood up.

※ ※ ※

“Behold, my super magic! And be delighted! Just this moment in the eternity of time that flows infinitely, at this point among the wide expanse of the world where we all are right now.”

The masked Marina announced as she took out a bow, 7 plates that would

serve as targets as well as 7 arrows.

“By my super magic, the 7 arrows will spectacularly hit all the targets using wind magic.”

“Ha? Isn’t that just Archery instead of Magic!”

A person from the audience yelled out.

“Hmph, just watch if you think that it’s just Archery.”

She said so as she drew the bow.

It was at the direction of the sun. And it was the direct opposite direction from the targets.

She released the arrow.

The arrows flew towards an unexpected direction.

However, they suddenly changed their trajectory and the 6 arrows pierced the 6 targets behind her.

Impressed applause from the audience welled up.

Turning around, 6 of the 7 arrows hit their targets.

Although one arrow missed its target, that technique was certainly good enough to be affixed with super-.

That was why she doesn't possess the bow equip skill.

That super magic — or rather street performance trick is extremely simple, which is why it's so difficult.

I asked Malina how it was done when she didn't have her mask on.

The tail of the arrows had strings attached to them. To the extent that it would be pulled off when tugged.

She pulls on that and changes the trajectory of the arrows.

It's possible in theory but superhuman technique is needed for that to hit the targets.

"Shit, 1 arrow missed."

Turning back, Marina showed a disappointed expression looking at the result.

"It's amazing even if 1 arrow missed! It's truly a super magic!"

"You were cool, Neechan!"

“It was beautiful!”

Marina ignored all the cheers and walked towards the arrow that missed.

“There was a being with a devilish will so what I did was I unintentionally sent the arrow flying here.”

She lifted the arrow and pierced on the arrow was a dead frog.

Seeing that, the audience burst out in exuberant cheering.

A lot of tips was collecting inside the silk hat she took out.

“Well then, I shall show everyone my next super magic.”

She took off her black scarf. It revealed her slave collar but none of the customers pointed it out.

Then, she covered the silk hat with the scarf and suddenly pulled it off.

The next instant, the tips within the silk hat had disappeared without any traces.

Her street performance was just beginning.

※ ※ ※

“It was a great success, Ichino.”

Marina said contently as she counted her tips on the Adventurers Guild table.

It was mostly copper coins but there were silver coins mixed among them.

“My level rose to Lv30 and I acquired a new magic.”

Apparently, the method to gain experience points for Street Performers is, apart from in combat, to obtain tips.

Incidentally, the upper limit for a single customer seems to be 1 silver coin.

So it's not possible to acquire experience points by repeatedly acting as a customer and throwing gold coins in as tips.

The method of hiring fake applauders to throw in silver coins seems to be around but defeating monsters regularly in a party is more efficient.

“Let's have a feast today. The waiter there, please get me grape juice that is dyed as red as blood.”

It seems like Marina can't take alcohol as well.

Leaving that aside, I'll get to the main topic.

"Haru, was the hero there?"

"No, I didn't see anybody that looked like him ... I didn't detect his scent either."

"I see ... even though I thought it would work splendidly."

So we'll have to steadily search on foot huh?

Just as I was thinking that.

"Excuse me — may I have some of your time?"

A man addressed from the side.

Did he come to chase after Marina?

When I looked to the side while thinking so, I spat out a sigh.

There was an Ikemen there. (TL: Ikemen = Good-looking guy, handsome man, hunk)

A man with black short hair, silver armor, and a sword worn on his waist.

Beside him were 3 beautiful slaves.

“I am Suzuki Kota. I serve as a Hero in this world.”

(073) The Hero's misunderstanding

It sure has been a Japanese fever since coming here.

It's already the 3rd Japanese person.

"I am Kusunoki Ichinosuke. My name is listed as Ichinojo on this side."

He spoke politely so I replied with an equal degree of politeness.

"Ichino wasn't your surname?"

Marina exclaimed in surprise after all this time. Now that I think about it, I've not introduced myself to this girl. Carol calls me Ichino so it's likely she misunderstood that as my surname.

I looked at Suzuki's job.

【Holy Warrior Lv39】

Wow, so cool.

Holy Warrior huh.

How does a person become one?

I'll try probing him slightly.

"You said that you're a hero but is Hero your job?"

"No. To be exact, it is a job called Holy Warrior. I'm level 39."

"Ooh, Holy Warrior ... is it perhaps from a blessing?"

“No, Holy Warrior is a highest tier job. I didn’t obtain the job from a blessing.”

“Ooh, what blessing did you get?”

“I’ll leave that to your imagination.”

Suzuki smiled with his shining white teeth.

So he won’t give me that much information huh.

Blessings are a sort of trick or a trump card.

Even I will not talk about my own blessing with this person who I still do not know if he is my ally or not.

” ... Oh well. Since it’s a rare chance to meet a fellow Japanese, how about it? Do you want to have a meal together?”

Actually, my plan was to finish our meal before sunset but due to the inspiration I got to use street performance to gather people after listening to the intelligence Carol gathered, in the end, we have not had our dinner yet.

I was feeling hungry as well.

“I’m sorry, I plan to head to the next town once my business is over.”

“Hmm ... what business?”

“Well. Could you please release the 3 slaves there?”

Ha?

This idiot, what’s he saying out of the blue.

“What do you plan to do? Are you part of an anti-slavery movement? I understand your feelings since we’re both Japanese but you have 3 slaves following you too.”

“That’s due to their own will. I intend to give the 3 of them their freedom if they wish for it.”

Saying that, Suzuki glanced at the 3 people standing behind him.

A woman dressed in nun garments. A swordswoman-like woman. And a short girl holding onto a plush doll.

Their jobs were 【Apprentice Practitioner】, 【Swordsman】 and 【Shaman】. Looks like a balanced party.

“I am an Apprentice Practitioner but I was saved when I was caught by a slave merchant. I want to remain as a slave until I repay this favor.”

“I participated in the Swordsmanship Tournament as a gladiator representative and lost to Suzuki. I unreasonably asked him to purchase me. I decided that the day I take off this collar is the day I beat Suzuki.”

” ... I decided to follow Ko-oniichan after he saved my village.”

This guy, he’s seriously been doing hero-like stuff.

Where did this protagonist come from?

“If that’s the case then it’s the same on my side. Haru and Carol as well, I intend to remove their slave collar if the 2 of them wish for it.”

When I said that, Haru and Carol gave affirmative nods.

“What about the magic-user female there? In fact, I’ve been asking around since daytime and I’ve heard that you bully her by taking her important item and forcibly make her do street performance-like stunts to earn gold.”

I’d like to correct him. It’s not street performance-like, it is street performance itself.

Although, if I say that then the conversation would become seriously tricky so I didn’t say it.

Just as I was thinking of keeping silent and just listen to him, as expected, that girl stood up.

“To call my super magic a street performance after seeing it. This quarrel, I will pay you back dearly — ah, Ichino-san, mask ... please return my mask.”

“You’ll make the conversation confusing so keep quiet.”

I took her mask and kept it in my item bag.

She extended her hand to try to take the mask out from the item bag but item bags are constructed such that people other than the owner can’t take things out of it.

She won’t be able to take it out no matter how hard she tries.

“So your true nature has come out. To take a girl’s accessory for yourself. It is hardly a forgivable act as a fellow man. It seems like the information was correct.”

” ... Ah, the topic became troublesome. I’ll say it now, I don’t intend to fight you.”

“I also do not wish to fight but if you do not agree then I have no choice.”

Saying so, Suzuki drew his sword.

“Alright. But, it would trouble the surrounding customers if we fight here. Go outside.”

“That’s true ... that’s right. Let’s continue outside.”

Suzuki and the 3 girls left the shop.

I —

“Thank you for waiting, four servings of seasonal pasta.”

I ate the pasta that I’ve been waiting for that had just arrived.

I gave it a try and asked for the seasonal pasta but I didn't even know which season we were currently in. Since it's easy to tolerate, it might be spring?"

Placed on the pasta was boiled wild grass that tasted like spinach.

I encouraged the 3 girls to eat as well and the 4 of us proceeded with our meal.

"Ichino-sama, is it fine to not go?"

"Fortifying myself with a meal comes first."

"I want to try fighting with that Swordsman girl."

"Erm, Ichino-san, mask ... ah, it's delicious."

Just as the 4 of us were peacefully eating our pasta,

"You bastard — what are you doing!"

Suzuki with a bright red face came back into the guild.

“What? I’m having a meal. Is that it? Is Hero a job where they interfere with people’s meals during meal time?”

When I said that, the bright red-faced Suzuki sighed and relaxed his shoulders.

” ... I’ll wait for you to finish your meal.”

“Rather, you guys eat too. Since we’ve added 4 servings. This pasta is delicious you know?”

“No, actually I have a wheat allergy so ...”

“Wheat allergy would be troublesome in this world. Since bread seem to be the staple.”

“I have potatoes in my item bag so I have those as staple — wait that’s not important!”

“Alright. It’s just a match right? So, what would you do if I lose?”

“Give this command to the girls. Ignore all previous orders, honestly say if you want to stop being a slave or not. If any of them want to stop being a slave then I’ll have you release them.”

I see. If that’s the case then I don’t have any demerits.

I have a feeling everything will be resolved if I just give that order immediately.

“Incidentally, what if I win?”

“As long as your companions don’t interfere, it doesn’t matter whatever order you give me.”

“Only 1 order?”

“Any number is alright too.”

There's no way he would lose. That's the composure I felt from Suzuki.

"Alright, I'm fine with that. Let's have a match."

Finishing my pasta, I said that.

"So, shall we use rock, paper, scissors to determine the match?"

"What are you saying! A match is —"

"Something that can only be resolved with violence? So Heroes are like that."

" ... Fine."

Seems like Suzuki accepted rock, paper, scissors as the match style.

If we were going to resolve it with rock, paper, scissors then there wasn't a need to wait for us to finish our meal but well, it's my harassment for treating me as a villain.

"However, the winner will be the one who wins 3 times. Is that alright?"

Suzuki added on a condition.

I replied with an "Okay".

"I forgot to mention but Holy Warrior is a job with high Luck among the number of jobs that Goddess-sama can bestow. To the extent of being able to rival the Philanderer job that only has its Luck stat as its saving grace. You might have a chance of winning if it's a single match but if it's multiple matches then you have no way of winning. This is what it means to fall into a tactician's trap!"

— 10 seconds later.

“Why! Why can’t I win! What the hell did you do!?”

“What did I do? I’ve only been playing rock, paper, scissors?”

However, I just slightly altered my jobs. Adding on Philanderer and Hunter, my luck stat became considerably high.

“Damn it ... ”

Suzuki collapsed in despair.

I’ve achieved my objective so perhaps it’s time I resolve the misunderstanding.

“Ah, Haru, Carol and Malina too while we’re at it. It’s an order. Ignore all previous orders, honestly say if you want to stop being a slave or not.”

I ordered the 3 of them. I tried to faithfully stick to Suzuki's words as much as possible.

"I've said it before but I don't intend to stop being master's slave."

"Carol too. Carol is Ichino-sama's slave under Carol's own will."

Haru and Carol announced.

"I ... I, that ..."

I took out the mask from my item bag and passed it to Malina.

Malina cheerfully put on the mask,

“Don’t misunderstand, Ichino. You may be my temporary owner but the only owner I acknowledge is my ally, Kannon. You’ve never had the right to have me accompany you in the first place.”

and said so with a cheerful laugh.

“There you have it.”

I triumphantly said and Suzuki’s face paled.

“So, sorry. It was all my misunderstanding. Please forgive me.”

He showcased a splendid Japanese I’m sorry style ... in other words a dogeza.

I tapped Suzuki’s shoulder and gently said “Heroes shouldn’t perform such an

apology method.”.

“So, who did you hear from? The one who labelled me as a villain. You got a tip right?”

” ... I can’t say.”

“You said that you’ll listen to whatever I say right? So will you tell me?”

” ... Alright. But, please. Come with me. Also, please don’t say what I’m about to say to anybody else.”

“I understand. I can roughly guess. So it’s a jackpot after all.”

I gave an evil smile and exited the Adventurers Guild.

There, Suzuki’s 3 companions were waiting.

I said with a smile “The misunderstanding have been resolved so there’s no need for a match. Rather than that, I’ve ordered food so if it’s alright with you 3, please have it.”.

Then, I also added on “As fellow Japanese, we have something important to

talk about so we will be away for a while but we'll be back soon.”.

“So, Suzuki. As I suspected, is the man who leaked bad rumors about me someone who is in possession of a D?”

“D ... I see, Kusunoki-kun. You also know about it huh. That's right, he was holding onto a D.”

In the first place, in a town that I have just only visited for the first time, there can only be 3 people who hold a grudge against me.

In other words, those 3 men who came to tangle with us in the Adventurers Guild.

I'll have to meet those guys once again.

“I must thoroughly read through the continuation to that D(doujinshi) I secretly read.”

(074) The mysterious printing house

“Incidentally, are you holding onto any of the D(doujinshi) after all as well?”

I asked Suzuki.

“Yeah, about 10 volumes.”

“Hoo ... that’s surprising. I thought that you wouldn’t really need it since you’re traveling with those pretty ladies.”

Not like you’re one to say! A lot of people are probably retorting with that but I asked because I was curious.

When I did so, Suzuki gave a wry smile and said,

“It’s because I have not laid my hands on those girls at all.”

Uwa, even with those 3 girls that people would yearn for, he has not made a move towards them? Seriously?

Well, excluding the loli girl.

“Those are some admirable words. Is it because you’re a Hero?”

“I have no choice right? Miles is a nun. Haven’t Kusunoki-kun heard before? Nuns must be virgins.”

” ... I feel like I’ve somehow heard of it before ... I guess it’s true that you can’t make a move if that’s the case? Then, what about that Swordsman nee-chan?”

“Kyanshi is the direct opposite of Miles in that she actively invites me. But ... her tribe has an absolute rule of 1 husband 1 wife. If I lay my hands on her then, in the end, I will have to marry her. That is her tribe’s tradition. In addition, after marrying her, I am prohibited from coming into contact with any other women apart from my own daughters that she gives birth to.”

That tradition is way too harsh.

“In ... incidentally, what about that loli girl? As expected, she’s out of your strike zone right?”

“I think that Schreyl is a sufficiently attractive girl as well but before I arrived at her village — during the time her village was raided ... that ... she was kidnapped by bandits ... forcibly had a slave collar placed on her and they rough —”

“Wait, you don’t have to say any more. Don’t say any more. I beg you, please don’t say any more. I believe you won’t lay your hands on that girl.”

I cried out.

“Although, she has finally started talking to me in a casual tone and she’s now fine with contact up to like touching her shoulders.”

Suzuki said with a bitter smile.

” ... Hey, Suzuki. Don’t tell me, you, not only are you holding onto D, perhaps it’s also followed by a T?” (TL: DT in Japanese stands for Doutei which means virgin)

” ... Please don’t talk about it.”

“Sorry.”

Yup, I’ve really said something bad.

Of course he would need the doujinshi.

Unlike me, he’s really left hung up to dry.

At the outskirts of town, we entered a half-deserted large building.

That mansion was originally a villa of a noble but it was apparently left abandoned after that noble passed away.

The sun had already set completely and it was pitch dark inside the mansion as even the moonlight didn't enter.

“「Lighting」”

Light emerged from the Light magic that Suzuki cast.

It's similar to the 「Petite Light」 Light magic I use but mine can only fly forward in a straight line and can't continue floating at the same location like his.

Let alone follow along when we move forward. I was admiring how convenient the magic was.

Wondering if my 「Petite Light」 could do the same thing, I tried my best to release a slowly moving 「Petite Light」 and it successfully formed a light bead that moved at only the speed of a human's walking speed but it didn't change the fact that it can't move freely.

When I asked Suzuki about it, he told me that even though 「Petite Light」 is considered among the Light magic spells, it is under the attack magic category and it's a magic to purify monsters like undead monsters.

「Lighting」 is a magic to produce light that has no offensive power under the same Light magic but in a completely different category.

Incidentally, 「Lighting」 is apparently a skill he learned after he became a Holy Warrior.

The II and III affixed behind the Light Magic skill shows the number of magic spells one is able to use so 2 people having the same Light Magic skill does not mean that they can use the same magic spells. Which was why Suzuki said that he was jealous of my 「Petite Light」.

“It's this fireplace.”

Suzuki pushed a brick beside the fireplace.

Upon doing so, the bottom of the fireplace opened and a concealed staircase appeared.

Light shined out from deep within and I could also hear sounds that sounded like conversations.

It seemed like there were visitors before us.

Suzuki entered in first.

“Oo, Hero-sensei! How was it? Did you get rid of that lawless fellow?”

I heard a voice. That voice was —

Entering the passage, I saw — as expected, it was the 3 from daytime.

“Wha, why are you here!? Hero-sensei, don’t tell me you’ve betrayed us?”

The skinhead Cat-user guy cried out in dismay.

“You guys are the ones who betrayed my trust. He’s not the kind of guy you people described. Although, he didn’t come here for revenge so relax.”

“That’s right.”

I said as I took out the doujinshi the man dropped in the morning from my item bag.

“I’d like to read the continuation to this. Also, if possible, show me some of the books you have here and I’d like to buy some of them. I’ll pay with gold if that’s what you want.”

” ... You’re a Secarian too!? Even though you’re traveling with those 3 cute girls.”

“2D is a different thing. It’s fine if you only want to let me see them. If you do so then I won’t blame you for the incident in the daytime as well as the deceit you played on the Hero.”

Even though what I did at daytime was legitimate self-defence, I did clearly go overboard.

The Cat-user man and his companions looked at one another after hearing me out,

“Okay. It’s quite hard to find guys who understand the tastes we have here. If you return that original copy then we’re okay with selling the copies to you.”

“Copies? You guys are doing mass production?”

... I thought redistribution of doujinshi was prohibited.

Is the legislation in this world not that advanced yet?

It would be capital punishment if it was done in Japan.

“Come along this way.”

The man guided us to the back.

“Do you know of the job called Magic Journalist?”

“Only the name.”

It’s one of the jobs unlocked by raising Commoner level.

“It’s a job that uses a special ink to create contracts or draw magic circles on talismans and attack by tossing those talismans. However, drawing magic circles is quite a precise task. Creating a talisman would take tens of minutes or even couple of hours depending on the type. Then, the nobles thought of it. Whether a magic tool can be used to mass produce talismans.”

What I saw at the back of the room was — a printing press.

Or rather, it looked like one of those copier machines placed at convenience stores.

“Using the special ink Magic Journalists use, this magic tool made talismans. But the result was a failure. Do you know why?”

“The effect won’t appear if it’s not written by hand?”

“Nope, the effect showed. It showed too much. Talismans can only be made by slowly altering magical power. As a result of drawing it all in one go using a magic tool, the Magic Journalist would face magical power sickness due to the alteration of their own magical power and collapse. They could not avoid it no matter what. The reason why it ended as a major failure was because they thought that they could easily make the talismans quicker by that method. After that, this facility was discarded but somehow a mansion was built behind this hidden facility and by a mistake in the design, the hidden stairs were not wide enough to carry the magic tool out. It was written in this journal.”

The man said as he took out a book that looked like a research log book.

“During his travels, the noble who was the director of this research facility died and this research facility was forgotten.”

“So, using regular ink, you guys restarted operation as a doujinshi factory huh? It somehow has an amazing history. So, where is the original copy of the doujinshi?”

I was waiting for the main dish to arrive but I was not patient enough to leisurely wait for it like in those French full course cuisines.

“It’s here.”

The man turned over one corner of a cloth.

Under it was — it might not seem like a significant amount in Japan but in the Otherworld, furthermore in this world where manga has not permeated the culture, even if you took away a lot of them it would still have plenty of allure, in other words, there was a 3-tiered bookcase filled with numerous doujinshi.

Doujinshi are thin to begin with.

With a full bookshelf, the number was more than just a 100 or 200.

“On the highest shelf, the 30 books from the right are the books that were written by Big Second master sensei.”

“Eh? Daiji ... there are others who draw doujinshi apart from Big Second-sensei?”

“Yes, the authors who call themselves the Second Children.”

For the time being, I'll take an appropriate look at some of the books.

While most of the books were drawn in 2 dimensions, the style of drawing was close to realism. There weren't enough deformation styles at all. (TL: Deformation styles = The cutesy drawing style of Japanese manga? Larger eyes, chibi drawings or caricatures.)

Among them, I found a doujinshi drawn with a cute illustration of a cat-eared girl.

“Ooo, this looks good. Hey, I'd like to copy this ... ple ... geh.”

What I saw was the disgusting appearance of the skinhead man fidgeting with his face red in embarrassment.

“Tha ... thank you.”

“It’s you! You’re the one who drew this illustration! How unexpected given your face ... no, it’s quite an excellent work. Rather, to have Cat-user as your job and also draw illustrations of cat-eared girls, just how much do you like cats!”

“Wha, how did you know that I’m a Cat-user!?”

“That doesn’t matter. Ha? Is this very well drawn picture of this loli loli cat girl character really drawn by you! No matter how I look at you, you don’t look like a person who can draw! Rather, you’re more like a character that would yell “Shall I dye the canvas scarlet red with your blood?” but then get crushed like a petite tomato yourself.”

“That’s harsh. I’ll let you know that I really am the one who drew that.”

Even though he’s just a mob character, a character set to only be a Cat-user and someone who gathers doujinshi, don’t further add on a setting to be a manga artist too.

Your name hasn’t even appeared you know?

Even though his name hasn’t even appeared, if this goes on, he might even

get added to the 2nd page of the character sheet.

” ... So this doujinshi was drawn by Cat manga user.”

“Don’t give me such a weird name! My name is —”

“Ooh, you’re a Cat-user huh? It’s a rare job. I heard that it’s a job that can only be taken by those who have been recognized by the leader of the Cat Sith.”

Suzuki was shocked and then nodded as if in admiration.

“If you only know to that extent then remember one more thing. Only Cat Sith priests can bestow the Cat-user job. Those guys, not only did they uproot and steal my Actinidia herb that I was carrying for medicinal purposes, they said that they wanted to give me an appropriate reward and changed my job on their own accord! Furthermore, it’s an elusive tribe that nobody knows where they are. Ah, damn it. I’ll be a Cat-user for life huh.”

Ah ... just like how Carol was troubled by not being able to change her

Temptress job, this Cat-user is also troubled by not being able to change jobs.

I should be able to change his job with my ability but getting the party set up would be troublesome so I guess it would be fine to leave it like this.

Because the Cat manga user grumbled his annoyances, his expression looked slightly relieved,

“Which is why I’m taking revenge against the Cat Siths. The Cat Sith race look almost exactly like cats so they are hostile towards the Cat-kin race whose only cat characteristic is their cat ears. I continue to draw these works in order to raise the Cat-kin race’s standing and their popularity.”

... This guy is that huh?

A self-proclaimed fan who sends scandal stories to weekly magazines to fan the flames and raise the popularity of the idol they’re chasing?

It looks to me that it would cause the position of the Cat-kin race to fall instead though.

“So what do you plan to do? If you’re buying then a single copy would cost 50 sense and my book is split into 3 parts.”

“I’d like all 3 of them!”

I won’t say something like it’s expensive.

This kind of work is a unique existence in this world. If I don’t buy them here, I don’t know when I would ever encounter it again.

While there’s a high chance that Daijiro-san has them as well, there’s also the chance that the books he had have already been disposed of.

“Come back again.”

Apparently, the man’s books were already copied before and I was handed 3 books.

Even though it’s a copy, it had stunning penmanship.

At that time.

The Cat manga user man suddenly became flustered and gave a mysterious expression.

Then, a single sheet of paper flew out from his pocket.

Talisman ... a talisman used by Magic Journalists?

“To think that this would appear.”

The man said so and placed the talisman that was floating in the air to his ear.

What's he doing?

Just as I thought that,

“That's a magic talisman used for communication. A receiving type talisman.”

Suzuki explained to me.

At that moment, the paper held by that man turned into sand and scattered.

“Though it is something that is disposed of after use like this.”

The man said so, gave a small sigh and looked over.

” ... Ah, sorry. It's 150 sense. Do you have the money now?”

“Is 2 silver coins alright? I don’t need the change. Just treat it as production cost for the manga.”

I passed him 2 silver coins.

I thought that he would be delighted but his expression showed that he was in low spirits.

Looks like the communication was about something bad.

“Thank you ... originally I would have wanted to talk more but please go back for today. I’ll ask a subordinate to guide you ... also, Suzuki. I’d like to talk with you for a bit.”

Suzuki and the Cat manga user man went to the back of the room.

Under the subordinate’s guide, I left the hidden doujin shop.

I wonder what is it, even though I’ve gotten my hands on 3 high-quality

works, I have a bad feeling.

Side Story At the back of the printing house

Suzuki was led to the back of the printing house.

“Hey, I’ll let you know that I have not forgiven you for lying to me ... ”

“I apologize for that. But, please, this time it’s serious. Please help.”

” ... What happened?”

Suzuki asked with narrowed eyes towards the Cat manga user man’s serious expression.

Then, the Cat manga user man said that name.

“Pinky Pants ... do you know about this person?”

“I don’t ... no, wait. Perhaps it’s the printmaking printer?”

“That’s right. The author that is incompatible with us. Real name Milky. Lives in Ferruit to the South ... well, she’s my niece but she just contacted me.”

Suzuki immediately realized that it was likely the message from the talisman just now.

The cheerful man’s appearance turned strange after listening to that talisman’s message.

“Please, save Milky ... save this country. If not, this country will perish.”

“Tell me in detail!”

(075) Ichinojo's hobby

When I returned to the Adventurers Guild, the Swordswoman — Kyanshi was drinking alcohol and picking a quarrel with the Nun — Miles. Haru as asleep beside the 2 of them.

Marina was dextrously manipulating a hamster-like familiar with her fingertip such that it looked as if it was really alive and Carol and the loli Shaman — Schreyll were watching in fascination.

They sure are acting familiar with each other, these 6 people.

Well, I also feel that the distance between me and Suzuki has shrunk.

All the more since he's in possession of D and it is followed by a T too.

Carol was the first to notice when I entered the Adventurers Guild that has turned into a bar at this time.

Even though she was chatting normally, she was most likely paying attention to the surrounding conversations too.

“Ichino-sama, welcome back. Is Kota-san not together with you?”

“He said that he had something to do. I think he’ll be back soon.”

I looked at Haru who appeared to be sleeping comfortably.

She gets drunk quickly but she also becomes sober quickly. But, she’ll most likely continue being drunk in a place filled with the smell of alcohol like this.

“Carol, please help me pay for the food with this. I’ll take Haru to the room.”

“No, I’ll do it instead of Ichino-sama ... though it looks like it’s impossible for me to carry her.”

Looking at her own arms, Carol sighed.

“Ichino. There’s no need to take out your gold. It’s my treat tonight. Since I

have the money I received from showing off my extraordinary magic just now.”

“No, you should hold on to that. Don’t you have to save up 10000 sense? I heard that Kannon promised your freedom if you did so right?”

“I don’t need to save 10000 from the start. I remained as a slave to continue my contract with Kannon. If I’m serious, I can gather 10000 sense easily. In fact, I earned 802 sense just now.”

“That’s amazing.”

80200 yen in a single performance huh?

She’s really a popular performer.

“Even so, use that for yourself. My family’s accounts come from the money Haru earns from selling items at the Adventurers Guild and the money Carol earns as a Peddler.”

” ... Hn? Then how do you earn your money?”

Kyanshi asked.

“Eh? Me?”

“That’s right. You don’t look like a combat professional so I’m curious what kind of job you do exactly.”

Miles asked with a smile.

My method to earn money?

Selling the items from defeated monsters ... is Haru’s role.

Selling iron ore as iron ... is Carol’s role.

Both are not wrong but neither are they correct.

They are means that I can’t earn on my own.

If that's the case, the method I have to earn on my own is —

“I can't earn a living apart from using the slot machine at the gambling parlor?”

Four of them except Carol pulled back from the words I muttered intermittently. Even Marina drew back.

” ... To immerse yourself in gambling without taking a regular job.”

Harsh words flew in from Schreyl.

No, sorry, my bad.

But, how should I explain it?

Is it alright to say the fact that even though I'm not an Adventurer, I can

defeat monsters better than Haru?

They would ask why would I defeat monsters even though I'm not an Adventurer.

Thinking of the possibility that they see Haru complete Adventurers Guild procedures in my stead next time, it might be better if I avoid lying and saying that I'm an Adventurer.

Do I lie and say that I'm an Alchemist?

Or ... no,

As I was feeling troubled,

"E ... erm, it's true that Ichino-sama does not have a job but — he is my life benefactor."

"Carol, that doesn't work as a follow-up."

Uwa, the gaze from the 4 of them became: "A useless man who lives a pimp life by using the favor of saving her life."

But I'm Jobless!

Even though I'm Jobless, I will never do something as despicable as that!

"I'll let you all know but I definitely do not do what you all are thinking right now. I did use almost all of the money Haru earned once but apart from that time, I really didn't ... do ... anything."

As expected, I really stepped on a landmine from my own words.

I must rephrase it as I used all the money Haru earned 【in the gambling parlor in order to not catch the attention of the bookmaker】.

Just as I thought that.

The Ikemen Hero, Suzuki, entered the shop.

"You three, we'll be leaving immediately. Lady, I'll pay the bill for that table, how much is it?"

“Wait, Suzuki! I’ll — ”

I’ll pay — or so I wanted to say but his 3 companions gave chilly gazes and,

『No need!』

Said so and left.

” ... Ichino-sama. I’ll be your ally no matter what happens.”

” ... Yup, thank you, Carol.”

... I regret my lack of vocabulary, no, above that, my Jobless-ness.

If it was an Otherworld protagonist, he would probably be able to come up

with an even better lie and make the girls go 'kya kya'.

Suzuki most likely excels in that aspect.

"Ichino. If you don't have a job, shall I teach you a bit of the technique of my extraordinary magic that even beginners can do? What ... if you do it seriously, you should be able to earn about 100 sense a day ... Fu, naive, do you think I'll let you so many times — don't take it, please don't take my mask ..."

In the gap when Marina was elated with her success from warding off my right-hand grab for her mask with her left hand, I took her mask with my left hand.

However, this time I was really venting my anger so I immediately returned the mask.

" ... Seriously, to snatch away my mask which is my identity ..."

"Marina. I'll let you know, I do properly have 2 or 3 methods to earn money. I'll make sure to let you see tomorrow."

After saying that, I carried Haru who was still continuing to sleep in a hug and headed up to the room on the second floor.

The room that I felt was narrow earlier when the 4 of us were talking in it was now reasonably wide when it's just the 2 of us. Even so, it's a room with just a bed and a pitcher filled with water so it would probably quickly feel cramped if we place anything down.

Thankfully, with the help of the item bag, we don't have any luggage.

“「Clean」”

While carrying Haru, I applied the 「Clean」 magic on the bed before laying her down to sleep.

” ... Master ...”

Haru muttered intermittently.

“Sorry, did I wake you up?”

When I asked, Haru opened her eyes wide in shock and instantaneously jumped off the bed.

“N, no! Sorry, it looks like I fell asleep.”

“Don’t worry about it. You’re most likely feeling tired. I’m also feeling sorry for having Haru act as the coachman the whole way.”

“Er, erm, would there be punishment?”

“No no ... rather, Haru, that’s weird? You should know that I’m not such a person.”

“But ... Master ... like ... right?”

... Like?

Is it about the D?

No.

Haru shouldn't know about me buying the D.

It should mean that here.

Whether I like Haru or not?

That kind of meaning.

Of course I do.

It's something I don't even need time to think.

"Yeah, I like. Much more than what Haru thinks."

I said it in my own words with simple words.

"As expected, it's true."

Haru somehow made a lonely expression.

Her expression usually doesn't really change but this time I could see it clearly.

Eh?

What's with this reaction?

“Master, I’m prepared. Erm, that ... if Master likes such a thing ... I want to answer to Master’s expectations ... that, when I was working at Matthias-sama’s shop, I heard from my senpai that there are people with such tastes.”

Weird, something’s weird.

It felt like I pushed a wrong button somewhere.

“Bu ... but, Master, for me, candles and whips are still slightly — ”

“Wait a minute! Eh? Candles? Whips? Eh, what are you talking about?”

“Er ... Master is — an S right. Master makes a delighted expression when bullying Malina-san. I have not seen Master with such an expression. I was extremely envious.”

..... Ha?

“If Master likes that kind of thing, I will also — ”

“Wait a minute! Haurvatat-san, please, don’t say any more — 「Silent Room」!!”

I applied magic on the room in panic after I was suspected of being an S.

Then, I went about resolving the misunderstandings from scratch.

I am not an S. I don’t have such an inclination.

Even the smile when I bully Malina was not due to a fetish but merely regular joy from playing around.

I mean, the Haru up until now has plenty of charm so I’d like her to remain the way she is.

“So it was like that ... I’m sorry for jumping to conclusions.”

I stroked my heart after finally resolving the misunderstanding.

“Incidentally, if the ‘like’ Master mentioned just now wasn’t that then what were you referring to?”

” Ah, we’ll leave that aside for another time ...”

Now probably wasn’t the kind of atmosphere to say it.

I hung my head (in disappointment).

(076) Marina's second job

We left the border town and headed for Ferruit.

Because I didn't have any time alone and I built a good relationship with Haru even though there were some slight misunderstanding yesterday, the doujinshis didn't get a role to play.

Incidentally, my Philanderer level rose by 3 all at one go, reaching Lv16.

When Philanderer reached Lv15, it released the options for 4 kinds of jobs: Musician, Singer, Dancer and Artist.

Among them, Marina possessed 3 of the jobs.

When I looked at my status page, the moment I thought that there were too many jobs, I obtained the title 「Job Maniac」 and 「Job Organization」.

Incidentally, Haru was also in charge of coachman duty today.

“Marina, do you have a moment?”

“What is it?”

“Why did Marina continue as a Street Performer? If you wanted to become an Archmage, you could always change jobs?”

“I don’t want to become an Archmage because I am already an Archmage. Also, it’s impossible to change job even if I wanted to. Street Performer is apparently a Unique job and average Priests can’t do anything about it.”

Why’s she saying it so proudly? Well, so it’s the same as Temptress and Cat-user, they can’t change job unless it’s a special Priest.

Furthermore, hers is a job that was set by the Goddess, worst case scenario would be there aren’t anybody who can change her job.

“If I told you that you can change job, what would you do?”

“Nothing. I’ll continue the way I am now.”

“Why?”

“I have not seen the end to the possibilities for the path I am on now. I hated it at the start but the many smiles of the people who witness my extraordinary magic fuels my magical power. It’s a wonderful thing.”

“Possibility ... huh?”

Carol muttered in a slightly reticent tone.

“I see. Then, what would you do if you could choose a second job?”

“If I can hold another job? If that’s the case, I’ll raise my Commoner level and aim to obtain the 「Bow Equip」 skill by becoming a Hunter.”

“Hunter? I thought that you would surely choose Apprentice Magician.”

“That will be what I do first. The performance of my arrows is nearly 100% due to my extraordinary magic. However, because I don’t have 「Bow Equip」, the offensive power can be said to be none. Piercing a helpless frog from behind is the most I can do.”

From behind? Looks like — at the street performance that time, the arrow didn't strike the frog from the front but was aimed at and shot at it from behind.

I guess the technique of swindling is also part of being a Street Performer.

“It's because I thought that I will also need to have a combat skill if I am to continue to travel together with my friend Kannon. But, why do you ask?”

“Ah ... hn—”

I was told to only tell those I trust about Second Job Setting — about Jobless skills.

Marina is kind of prone to chuunibyou delusions but I don't think that she's a bad person. But, what about Kannon?

I don't really know much about her. At the very least, she's someone who sells equipment using scamming methods.

I can't deny the possibility of Marina telling what she knows to Kannon when she returns to being Kannon's slave.

If that's the case, shall I make a suitable lie this time?

In my mind, I crafted a consistent setting.

"Marina, in a fashion, I'm saying hypothetically, I am your owner so you must obey my command."

"Indeed. However, if you perform any insolent act towards me, know that the day you no longer am my owner will be your death anniversary."

"I won't do such a thing! For now, it's an order. Never look at my status."

"I see. It's because you don't want to let me see you not having any job worth mentioning huh?"

"No. It's because my blessing is slightly unique and have multiple abilities so I don't really want to show it."

While saying that, I winked at Carol. She's good at guessing so she'll probably understand.

“I am able to set 2 jobs for my party members. For now, I will try setting Marina’s second job as Commoner so check your status.”

I also tried checking but I can’t see if a second job is properly set or not.

However, because her status rose, it’s certain that some job was indeed added.

“Oo, my hidden power has decided to show itself now.”

“No, it’s my ability.”

“Don’t fret the details, you’ll go bald. From the top.”

“Don’t go to the extent of specifying the starting point! And don’t go cursing me to go bald! Either way, during our round trip between Ferruit and that border town, if possible, I’ll let you acquire Bow Equip and other simple spells. It’ll widen the scope of your performances.”

“Don’t refer to my extraordinary magic as performances. I’ll curse you.”

“That’ll not be magic but shamanic art.”

I cut in with the promised tsukkomi.

Don’t ask me about the difference between magic and shamanic arts okay?

The people who possess the Apprentice Magician job like me and the Magician job learn magic while Shamans like Schreyll use shamanic arts.

“Haru, so you have it, as what we’ve discussed this morning if you detect any monster scents, please actively head in that direction for us to hunt.”

“Yes. Even so, there aren’t many monsters around.”

“Hn? I thought that there are quite a number of monsters around?”

Due to my 「Presence Detection II」 skill, I can sense enemy presence but ...?

What does this mean?

I thought as I looked out from the loading platform.

... Even though there really were monster presences, I totally did not see any figures.

There was grass growing but the grass wasn't that tall so there shouldn't be any place for them to hide.

"Perhaps it's Tubifex worms?"

"Yarn worms?"

Carol asked as I tried to analyze it in my own way to slightly understand the 「Presence Detection」 skill better.

I see, I can indeed feel the presences below the ground.

“If that’s the case, we might as well just dig them up.”

“I can’t say that is a good method.”

“Won’t it leave us with the option of defeating fish-type monsters by catching the Tubifex worms and fishing with them? We won’t need sonar as well with my 「Presence Detection」.”

“Fishing ... with the Tubifex worms?”

Carol gave a disgusted expression.

Looks like she is bad with earthworms.

Well, I don’t have fishing gear anyway so I’ll leave this entertainment for when I become an Angler.

“Master, I sense the smell of monsters from that cave. Would you like to try firing magic?”

“Magic!? If it’s magic then it’s my turn — ”

“Your street performance is not going to defeat any monster.”

I flicked Marina on her forehead.

She glared at me in tears while pressing onto her forehead.

After the carriage stopped, I looked at the cave Haru pointed out. It was in a hilly area so the cave was dug slantwise.

It did felt like it was a cave that was dug out by animals compared to a naturally-formed cave.

There were multiple presences.

“Alright, I’ll give it a try.”

I took out Asklepios’s staff and switched my jobs to Magician-type jobs and

Apprentice Blacksmith.

Then, I pointed my staff at the cave —

“「Fire」!”

and chanted. A ball of fire immediately appeared on the tip of the staff and it left burn marks at the cave surroundings before landing on the bottom of the cave. The explosion caused a roar, smoke and dust scattered and the cave collapsed the next instant.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Apprentice Blacksmith skill: 「Blacksmithing」 obtained】

【Recipe obtained】

The combat ended without me knowing what exactly did I defeat.

It also looks like I learned recipes related to blacksmithing.

I've been thinking of raising it but I've been raising my alchemy as my main so I only learned Blacksmithing this late.

It looks like I can create weapons and armor from stone, bronze, and iron now.

"Looks like they were exceptionally high experience point monsters. My Commoner level rose to 7."

Level 7 huh? Then she'll be able to change job to Hunter or Farmer.

However, her level rose not because the experience points were high but merely because of the effect of my 20x experience point acquisition.

"If I go to the church ... mu, Ichino. It would be fine if it is a normal job change but how would I go about changing my second job?"

"Ah, I'll do it for you. I can at least change the second job."

I mentally changed Marina's second job to Hunter.

"Oo, my Luck stat became 50 ... hn? Ichino, did you perhaps use your blessing to greatly raise your Luck stat so that you can earn via the gambling parlor slots and in Rock Paper Scissors with Suzuki?"

"Great insight. You do have some sharp moments occasionally."

"The 'occasionally' is unneeded."

"Very well, please defeat more monsters and acquire my Bow Equip for me."

"Don't speak so patronizingly with honorific language ... or rather, it's impossible. Since there aren't any enemies."

I once again surveyed the grassland.

There wasn't even a single child of a monster.

That day — in the end, we didn't encounter any other monsters as we greeted a night of staying outdoors.

At the time when we were eating the cooking we ordered from the Adventurers Guild that we moved to another container and placed into my item bag.

“Erm ... Ichino-sama. You wish to raise your level right?”

Carol looked at me with entreating eyes.

It's rare for her to show such expression.

“Hn? That's right. Maybe I should look for a labyrinth or something. Does Carol have a job you want to raise?”

“It's just as you say ... I do have a job I wish to raise ... ”

Carol said hesitantly while casting her eyes down but she resolved herself and looked at my eyes.

“I’ve been thinking if you would like to raise Carol’s Temptress job!”

Side Story Journey of 5 people and a donkey

The time was when Ichinojo and gang were watching the street performance on the bridge connecting the borders.

Jofre, Elise and Centaur, as well as Julio, Sutchino and Milky, 5 people and a donkey, were headed towards the labyrinth in the northwest direction.

Jofre and Julio were walking in front.

“Eh, Jofre-san and gang were Uncle Narube’s subordinates?”

When he was introducing himself to Jofre and Elise, Julio shouted excitedly when he found out that his own uncle was Jofre's former boss.

"That's right. My, so coincidental, to think that Julio is the boss's nephew."

It was true that Jofre was Narube's subordinate but his first meeting with Narube was after Ichinojo defeated Narube and he had quickly changed his attitude.

"I admire you! Jofre-san! You're seriously great!"

Julio was the leader of the secret society.

However, because Jofre was the subordinate of his respected uncle and also rescued him in a dramatic fashion, the usual Julio — showed an underling temperament and even his tone changed.

Sutchino was looking at those 2 from the position of one step behind.

Impatience could somewhat be felt from him.

And then, Milky and Elise who were staring at the 3 of them.

Because of 'Ladies first', the 2 of them were moving while riding on Centaur.

"Fufufufufufufufufufu."

"You look like you are enjoying yourself, Milky."

"Yeah, Elise-san. Please look at those 3. Julio who admires Jofre-san. Sutchino who's wondering if Julio has been taken from him. What a wonderful love triangle."

Milky had an ecstatic expression with a bleeding nose.

Centaur didn't notice at all the nosebleed falling on his own back.

Normally, if one had a nose bleeding at such a location, the smell of blood would attract monsters but it didn't happen at all, it was the picture of peacefulness.

Incidentally, what Sutchino was anxious about was if Jofre and Elise continued to come along with them, how would they split the share?

For Sutchino who faced death a few moments ago, it was clearly reassuring to have 2 people who are stronger than themselves but it was troubling to have their share cut in half — was what he was thinking.

That common expression painted on Sutchino's face became a nosebleed-inducing painting after it passed through Milky's maiden filter.

For her — Pinky Pants, 3 men would most likely appear in her next work.

"There it is. The labyrinth for beginners but — it looks dangerous from here so

let's carefully — eh?"

In front of the labyrinth building, Julio tilted his head.

Usually, at this timing, the soldier on guard duty would be patrolling around until their time to change shift but that soldier's figure was nowhere to be seen.

An experienced Adventurer would have a bad premonition from this but,

"We're lucky, looks like we will be able to easily sneak into the labyrinth now."

He had such optimistic thinking.

However, with 5 people around, somebody else should likely stop him.

"Let's quickly go in and return. Then, we'll be rich men."

“We sure are lucky, Elise.”

“My good fortune was meeting Jofre.”

“The new work will be Joff x Juli x Sutchi ... no, Sutchi x Juli x Joff ... ah, but ‘Hit by jealousy Sutchi x Joff’ can also work ...”

A slave to gold, an idiot couple and a pervert. As well as a donkey.

Without a single person to stop Julio, the 5 people and a donkey didn't think anything as they entered the labyrinth.

(077) First round of Temptress battle

Becoming a Temptress and raising that job.

To those words and to the meaning behind those words, Haru and I wondered if Carol was trying too hard.

The only person who didn't know about the Temptress job, Marina, tilted her head and asked.

She's most probably making a puzzled expression behind her mask.

"Ichino. What's Yuuwakushi?" (TL: Yuuwakushi is the pronunciation for Temptress)

"Hn? Ah, I'll tell you another time."

The Temptress job should be nothing but a trauma to Carol.

I hesitated from talking about what merits and demerits that job has in front of Carol.

However, Carol silently shook her head.

“No ... I’d also like Marina-san to listen. The Temptress job is — ”

Carol begin talking about her own job.

About the Temptress job.

The merits and demerits of a Temptress.

About how much she was used by other people and about the unpleasant memories she had experienced.

To Carol, the greatest suffering was hurting anybody apart from herself due to her ability — for example, her parents.

Even Marina who usually gets carried away silently listened to the story.

Finally, she slightly obscured the reason why she was no longer a Temptress now.

She most likely recalled my request that it would be better to not mention that I changed her job.

“But, why do you suddenly want to raise your Temptress job?”

“Marina-san said it before. She has not seen the end of the possibilities for the path she is on. Carol is the same too. Carol has been averting her eyes from the ability of a Temptress and has always been running away. Even though, perhaps ... if my level increases I might be able to control this skill.”

Carol further continued.

“Furthermore, if Carol ever meets a child with the same Temptress job as her, Carol wants to leave something behind for the sake of that child. About the possibilities of Temptress — .”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes. Fortunately, this is the middle of a wide grassland. I don’t think that people would get involved even if the monsters swarm over and I don’t think that the smell would reach until the Tubifex worms underground.”

” ... Haru, this is my own selfishness but please lend a magic bow to Marina. Once Marina’s level rises, she would immediately acquire the bow equip skill. Also, I will revert Carol’s job whenever I decide that it has become dangerous.”

“Understood.”

Haru lent Marina her Wind Bow and explained to her the way to use it.

She might not be able to use it now and can only equip it but ... once her Hunter level rises and she acquires the skill, she should be able to use it immediately.

“Very well ... then, I’ll change your second job. I’ll keep your first job as Harvester okay?”

“Yes.”

“Alright, here we go!”

I mentally changed Carol’s second job to Temptress.

... It should have been set with that.

Silence dominated the field.

I stared intently in the downwind direction from us.

“Nothing’s coming.”

That’s anticlimactic. Seeming like she wanted to say that, Marina lowered the bow she that she drew even though she couldn’t use it.

However, Haru was the first to notice.

“Master, here they come!”

” ! I’ve sensed them too! It’s ants – !!”

I was late in noticing because of the shadows made by the grass and it was night time.

Black ants — Huge ants the size of wild dogs were approaching us in large numbers.

“Petit Ice! Petit Stone! Petit Dark! Petit Wind! Petit Water!”

I would be troubled if lightning or fire caused the grassland to burn so I couldn’t use them. Light magic only has an effect on the undead in the first place so I didn’t use it either.

Ice chunks, stone gravel, dark beads, wind blades and water balls collided against the approaching ants.

“Slash!”

“Slash!”

From Haru’s 2 arms holding daggers and from my 2 empty arms, a total of 4 arms released 4 vacuum waves that hit the ants.

But, it didn’t look like the number of ants decreased.

“Carol! I’ll tentatively change your second job to a suitable job!”

“Ye, yes!”

I changed Carol’s job to Farmer.

But, it’s not like the ants will disappear just because of that.

Since the ants were already here.

I leaped into the center of the ants and while seated,

“Rotational Slash!”

recited the name of the skill.

With me as the center, the surrounding ants were shredded.

“Rotational Slash!”

Haru also copied me and shredded the ants using rotational slash.

“Slash!”

Since 10 seconds had passed, I once again defeated 2 far away ants.

It should be doable if it's like this.

Just as I had that thought.

Something was expelled out from an ant's mouth.

“Marina, danger!”

I flew in front of Marina who was beside Carol.

A certain liquid was spit out by the ant and hit my back.

Regardless of the light armor I had on, severe pain greater than I had

imagined ran through me.

“Master!”

It seemed like Haru defeated the ant that spat acid at me. It's presence disappeared.

“Ichino-sama!”

“I'm alright. Petit Heal!”

I used Petit Heal on my back.

It treated the pain but was my armor fine?

It's the armor I got from Margaret-san but it might have melted.

“Slash!”

I rained Slash in the direction of the enemy.

After that, we continued to fight until the remaining ants fled.

(078) Dismantling ants

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Alchemist skill: 「Disassembly」 obtained】

【Magician skill: 「Ice Magic」has skilled up to「Ice Magic II」】

【Apprentice Practitioner skill: 「Shield Magic」 obtained】

【Apprentice Blacksmith skill: 「Inscription」 obtained】

【Recipe obtained】

Because the ants retreated, level up messages flowed through my brain.

Shit, they are quite decent despite being mere ants. Next time if they come out, I'll block their nest.

Also, Jobless level reached until Lv79 without me noticing.

It seems like it will reach Lv80 with just a little more at this rate.

“How are the 3 of you doing? Did your levels increase?”

“Yes. Beast Warrior level rose to 10 and I obtained the skill called 「Blood of the Beast」. It has the ability to dramatically enhance my physical attack power and speed for just 10 minutes upon usage. However, it apparently has the demerit of not being able to move for a minute after the 10 minutes time limit is up.”

“It’s a skill where you have to choose the place and time to use it huh?”

“Yes. Also, Lumberjack level has reached 11. I would like to have my second job changed to Pugilist please.”

“Congratulations – ! Now that I think about it, this time, Haru also defeated quite a number of ants.”

I mentally changed Haru’s second job into Pugilist.

I requested for Haru to check and it seems like it changed to Pugilist without

problems.

“Ichino, I thank you for the help just now. But, I want to ask something. Aren’t you hiding something from me?”

“What is it?”

“My Hunter level reached Lv4. This time I didn’t do anything at all. Regardless of there being a party, the experience points that I can obtain should not be any more than 1/6. Army Ants are certainly tough when they form a group but I heard that their experience value is not that high. My level increased too much.”

“Isn’t that a good thing?”

“Ichino, at this point, I won’t comment on how you still assume that I am a fool. However, just now you said something to Carol. 『I’ll keep your first job as Harvester okay?』. In other words, you are also capable of changing the first job. Carol hid the truth but it’s probably Ichino who released Carol from the curse of being a Temptress.”

” ... Marina, so you’re not an idiot huh?”

Well, I may have thought that it wouldn’t matter much if it was revealed but I

seriously let slip too much.

If this continues on, I'll be the idiot instead.

"It's one of my blessings. From Koshmar-sama and Torerul-sama, I received blessings from the 2 of them ... no, the 2 pillars. Experience points of beings defeated by me will be multiplied by 20 and I can freely change jobs."

" ... Is that all?"

"No, I still have plenty of secrets. Would you prefer if I show you my whole hand?"

When I asked with a smile, Marina silently shook her head side to side.

"No, I'm grateful that you told me that. But, there are some things that are better kept as secrets in the world. Like the source of my extraordinary magic. Also, I've obtained Bow Equip. I'd like to return to Commoner next."

Alright ... I reverted Marina's second job to Commoner.

In spite of how Marina isn't usually capable of reading the atmosphere, it seems like, in her core, she's a child that can read the atmosphere.

"How about Carol? I ended up having to change Temptress to a suitable job halfway through but did your Temptress level change?"

"Yes ... it was only active until the middle but my Temptress level rose to Lv5. 「Captivating Fragrance of the Moon」 rose to 「Captivating Fragrance of the Moon II」. It's a unique skill so I could not confirm the changes. Also, I acquired 「Charm Magic」. It's a magic that charms others. If I recall, it should be a magic used by Song Magicians."

"Song Magicians?"

"An advance job released when both Singer and Magician jobs are raised."

"So there's such a job too ..."

I didn't know that.

Even so —

“Well then, it would be considerably easier next time since Marina can use the magic bow now but we’ll leave the continuation for tomorrow.”

I tried taking off my armor and my shirt.

Healing magic treated my injuries but that won’t work for equipment.

The portion of the iron armor that was hit with the acid was slightly deformed and the acid may have seeped in through the gaps of the armor so a part of my clothes had burned off too.

The shirt was probably no longer usable.

Thankfully, I bought multiple sets of the clothes I’m wearing now so I took one out from my item bag and changed.

Well then, what about my armor?

It’s fine to continue using it like usual but to be honest, it doesn’t look very presentable.

” Er ... erm, Ichino-sama.”

Carol called my name seemingly wanting to say something.

“Looks like there’s one more thing to look forward to.”

“Eh?”

“I’m currently training my Apprentice Blacksmith job so it should be able to easily mend armor of this extent. Rather, the ant’s poison was merely seriously painful. My HP almost didn’t drop at all so it’s alright.”

“From what I’ve heard, massive monsters like Dragons and Rocs purposely bathe their whole body in ant acid to exterminate parasites.”

Haru taught me.

Ant bath huh?

Even on Earth, I've heard that certain birds use ant formic acid to exterminate mites.

It's the same as that huh?

But, to use acid capable of melting metal to remove parasites, the monsters of this world are amazing too.

"I've heard that the acid of Army Ants is used during the creation of metal alloys. For that reason, the Adventurers Guild also purchases the acid gland located within the ant's body. Strong technique in dismantling is required though."

"I see. Haru, Carol, Marina, sorry but please gather the ants. I'll dismantle them."

I changed my job to Hunter and Dismantler.

Dismantler is also a job that has increased experience gain from dismantling monsters.

Indeed, skill is required to make an incision in the abdomen and extract the acid gland.

Precisely because it is fragile.

30% of the ants we defeated already had their acid glands cracked due to the impact from the battle.

Touching the leaked acid would most certainly cause chemical burn so care had to be taken when dismantling the body.

Its weight was not even 10% of that of the Brown Bear but dismantling it felt like it was several times more tiring.

Normally, even after dismantling, delicate transport is required as well but in my case, it was easy as I could easily transport them by storing them in my item bag.

Also, the fangs and the carapace of the Army Ants can apparently be sold.

Ant meat could apparently be consumed too but I didn't feel like eating it so I'll sell that too.

In total, as a result of dismantling 30 ants,

【Ichinojo Levelled up】

【Dismantler skill: 「Food・Minerals・Metal Appraisal」has skilled up to「Food・Minerals・Metal・Monster materials Appraisal」】

【Dismantler skill: 「Dismantling II」has skilled up to「Dismantling III」】

【Dismantler skill: 「Dexterity UP (minor)」has skilled up to「Dexterity UP (small)」】

【Hunter skill: 「Hawk Eye」obtained】

【There are no further levels for Hunter】

【Title: 「Peak of Hunter」obtained】

Well, the reward was perfect so all is well.

(079) Arriving at Ferruit town

Once dawn broke, we aimed for Ferruit with our carriage.

Carol was apparently thinking about something and didn't sleep the whole time so she was currently sleeping.

Similarly, Marina was practicing with the Wind Bow so she was likewise currently sleeping as well.

I also didn't get much sleep but as a person born in the Heisei era, it's not really difficult to stay awake until the middle of the night so I'm talking with Haru today.

As usual, I felt the presence of monsters from below ground.

When I asked if they might be the presence of yesterday's ants instead of Tubifex worms, I was told that Army Ant nests always start with the creation of an ant mound so it should be Tubifex worms after all.

An ant mound for such huge ants huh? I wonder how enormous it would be?

“Is it possible that the cave I shot a Fireball into yesterday was actually an ants nest? And that the hill was actually an ant mound?”

“I don’t think that is true. That hill was too large to be an ant mound.”

“I guess that’s true.”

If that was the ant mound of a single ant colony, this country would be full of hills.

“There was a unique smell inside that monsters nest so I will inform master when the monster that emits that smell appears.”

“Okay. Thank you. But, you don’t have to pay too much attention to it.”

I was thankful towards Haru’s thoughtfulness as we proceeded towards the south.

Right about noon, we let Fuyun rest for a while before we once again head south for another 3 hours.

When the sky turned reddish and the white clouds turned black as if black paint was mixed into them, we finally arrived at the town of Ferruit.

Before we entered the town, I reverted Carol's job to Peddler.

A town in the center of a wide grassland.

It was surrounded by tall stone walls and there was a prominent castle-like building in the center.

"I've heard about it in the capital but it's about the size of Belasra huh ... even so, the walls sure are tall."

"It seems to display a strong message showing their preparations towards the event where Korat invades. Since their skirmish with Korat has been ongoing for hundreds of years. Look, Ichino-sama. There are many layers of colors on the wall. Those are vestiges of the expansion works done on the wall time and again."

Carol who woke up in the afternoon explained to me.

Indeed, the wall looked like the earth stratum.

It felt like I've witnessed the first tourist attraction.

I paid for the town entry tax and entered the town.

Unfortunately, my Commoner level did not rise.

There sure were many buildings constructed with bricks inside the town. Conversely, there were hardly any wooden buildings.

Stalls that sold grilled meat stood out.

I was also delighted to find out that there were other shops selling something like cheese.

On the contrary, the price of vegetables was considerably high.

It was nearly double the price compared to those in Florence.

There were hardly any fishes sold.

“Ichino-sama, let’s first go to the trading post then head for the stable.”

“Okay. After that is done, we can sell the ant materials at the Adventurers Guild and finally deliver the kitchen knife to the inn and rest ... okay?”

When I said that, Malina reproachfully glared at me.

I wanted to see what reaction she would give when I took her mask as she was sleeping but for some reason, she just fixedly glared at me without getting angry like before.

Well, I can’t let her become a hindrance to Carol during the negotiations by saying strange things so I’ll keep her like this for now.

It's great to have peace and quiet.

Tentatively, I took out the spices and iron from my item bag and placed them in the carriage.

The carriage became a lot more cramped all of the sudden so we exited the carriage.

"Can I leave all of the transactions this time to Carol's discretion?"

"Are you sure?"

I nodded and took out a purple scarf.

"I bought this at the border town. It should be just right for hiding the slave collar?"

Just like how I wrapped the red scarf around Haru, I wrapped the purple scarf around Carol.

“Haru, sorry but please stand-in as her guard. Since this time, I will really just carry the goods into the shop and stay outside the shop.”

“Ichino-sama, thank you. I will try my best to live up to Ichino-sama’s expectations.”

I patted Carol’s head with a smile and then we carried the goods together.

Malina fixedly stared at our interactions.

(080) Malina's words and her letter

After we finished moving the goods, I was alone with Malina.

Malina continued to stare at me.

... Awkward.

I wondered if she had something on her mind as I scratched my head.

“Hey Malina, please say it if you have something to say.”

Malina gave a start when I said so.

This is tricky.

Her 2 personalities are too extremely different.

“Do you want me to return your mask?”

“Ah ...”

Malina reacted to the words ‘mask’ but she shook her head,

“Ten ...”

“Ten?”

“Ten ants.”

What is she saying?

Malina’s face was bright red as she faced down and spoke.

Is it the remnants of the trauma from the ant attack yesterday?

“Ten ants ... that, thank you.”

” Eh?”

“Ten ants ... erm, thank you.”

“No, it’s not that I didn’t hear it, I’m wondering why did you bring up such a Showa era gag?” (TL: It’s a gag that can’t really be translated into English. In Japanese, thank you is pronounced as ‘arigatou’. ‘Ari ga tou’ can also be read as ‘10 ants’. So Malina was basically saying there are 10 ants at the start instead of saying thank you, which explains why Ichinojo was thinking if it’s trauma from the ant attack.)

When I said that, I arrived at a single thought.

“Is it possible that, after all this time, you are now thanking me for my help with the ants yesterday?”

When I asked, Malina nodded her head twice.

Apparently, I guessed correctly.

“Were you staring at me the whole time today because you were looking for the opportunity to say those words?”

Malina once again nodded her head twice.

... What ... why is she ... is she an idiot?

“Rather, didn’t Marina thank me yesterday? You said ‘I appreciate it’ ”

” ... I wanted to ... say it with my own mouth without borrowing Marina’s ... the mask’s power.”

“Then, what’s the reason for inserting the ... 10 ants gag?”

” ... During my school days, the atmosphere will always freeze when I say my thanks so ... I tried sprinkling in some humor.”

Ah, because she dampens the atmosphere by suddenly saying her thanks for old matters out of the blue huh?

I can understand the feelings of her classmates.

Since I just experienced it myself.

“Malina, it’s natural to help each other as companions. Even so, I will gratefully receive your gratitude. Thank you.”

” ... I am ... Rina Oushin. ‘Shin’ from ‘Truth’, ‘Ri’ from the fruit ‘Pear’ and ‘Na’ from the Rape Blossom flower.”

Eh, self-introduction at this point of time!? Well, it’s true that I didn’t know her last name though.

Though I guess it’s impossible for Marina to do the self-introduction. Since to her, her name is Marina instead of Malina.

“Then, I am Kusunoki Ichinosuke ... wait, Malina?”

Malina remained stiff with her face bright red.

It looked like she somehow overheated.

Smoke was coming out from her head. Of course, that's a lie but it felt like I could see an illusion of it happening.

I guess she pushed herself too much in her own way.

“Isn't it good fortune that you came to the Otherworld? You won't be able to function in Japan if you're like that.”

Although the answer would be 'No' if I asked if she's getting by in the

Otherworld.

But, she would be able to survive as the only Street Performer in the world as Marina.

After a short while, Carol and Haru returned.

“Ichino-sama, we’ve returned.”

Carol returned with a smile.

Looking at that expression, I guess she sold it at quite a good price.

Carol bought the peppers for 25800 sense and the iron ores for 24200 sense.

I wonder how much did they sell for.

“We sold the peppers for 35000 sense and the iron for 85000 sense. It’s a natural outcome given the value of Ichino-sama’s Alchemist technique. My Peddler level increased by 1. Also, for the shell brooches I purchased for 800 sense, including the information on the shop, they were sold for 1500 sense.”

Amazing, the original value of 50000 sense became 120000 sense huh?

We easily surpassed twice the price.

But, it’s to be expected that the shell brooches would sell for close to twice the original price. Since all we did was buy up all of it from the store.

“It’s because the trader persistently wanted to know my acquisition route for the iron. If it’s known that it was master who made them, I don’t think that this country’s Alchemist Guild would leave master alone.”

“It’s thanks to Carol’s skill that we could sell the good for a high price. So, what did you purchase this time?”

“I purchased the horn of the cow monster called Bambmorse. It’s not only used as a material for folk craft, the horn itself can be traded at a high price as a trade good. This would be the best if we want to have a stable trade. Though, I will purchase salted meat after the Horse Chasing Festival is over.”

I didn't miss the sound of Haru swallowing her saliva when Carol mentioned salted meat.

"Hey, Carol, Haru. Why don't we put off going to the Adventurers Guild for another day and go back to our inn today to have our meal?"

"That's true. Haru-san should be tired so I don't have any objections."

"I am fine."

"Sorry, I'm feeling hungry."

I laughed while rubbing my belly.

Even though I'm the one who did the least.

"Carol, do you know where's the location of the inn?"

“Sorry, I don’t remember ... I do remember the location of the stable so maybe we can ask there?”

By the time we reached the stable, Malina had recovered from her overheating.

I entrusted Fuyun and the carriage to them, told them the name of the inn which was the delivery destination of the kitchen knife and we headed in that direction.

It was only about 5 minutes walk away so we could see it straight away.

It was a four-storey stone building.

When we entered the shop, the first floor was a tavern and I was told that the front desk for the inn was on the second floor.

We exited temporarily to climb up the outdoor stairs.

“Welcome. Do you wish to stay?”

A portly auntie asked me with a smile.

“Yes. Also, this is a delivery from Kannon-san.”

I said as I passed her the parcel with the kitchen knife.

The auntie took out the kitchen knife from the parcel.

“As expected of Kannon-san. She did a good job.”

“Is Kannon-san famous as a craftsman for kitchen knives?”

“You didn’t know? That child is a Magic Sword Craftsman. She a pro who has mastered Blacksmithing and Alchemy you know?”

... You're kidding right?

I forgot to see Kannon's job but she's actually such an amazing person?

Rather, she's doing such a fraud business even though she's so amazing?

"Is that kitchen knife some kind of a special kitchen knife?"

Haru asked with interest.

It's called a kitchen knife but it's just slightly shorter than the sword Haru's using so she would probably be able to use it as a weapon.

"Ah, yeah. This kitchen knife has been enchanted with the magic that maintains the freshness of plants such as fruits or vegetables cut by it. If you use this to cut an apple, it would not be discolored even after leaving it out for a whole day."

"That's ... amazing."

It's amazing but so dull.

“Oya, this letter is addressed to the child called Malina?”

The auntie passed the letter that was enclosed together with the kitchen knife to Malina.

Although Malina was puzzled for a moment, she was more interested in the letter from Kannon compared to her embarrassment so she received the letter with her head bowed.

Evidently, Malina has learned the words of this world without relying on skills as she proceeded to read the letter.

Then, she began to shed tears after reading.

“What happened?”

” ... Abandoned.”

Eh?

“I was abandoned by Kannonnnnnn!!!”

Malina cried out in tears.

So she is capable of speaking loudly.

(081) Epilogue

I booked 2 double rooms in the inns and Malina and I were in one of those rooms.

There, I had Malina let me read her letter.

【To my beloved hopeless child Malina.】

I gave a wry grin at the sudden diss even though she called her her beloved child.

【By the time you read this letter, I'm probably no longer in this world.】

I scanned further down after seeing words like it was a last will.

Naturally, that was a lie.

【You'd be shocked if I said that right? Surprised? The truth is that I want to enjoy a leisurely trip on my own free from worldly cares. In other words, I am already entering Arundel. Some troublesome work dropped in unexpectedly and since it is a work that requires me to be inconspicuous, I would be troubled if Malina was around. I've decided to leave you in that man's care for a while. Don't worry, judging by the looks on the 2 girls' faces following him, it's surely a workplace with good treatment so be at ease. Of course, if you don't like that, you can always go to the son of the border town chief. He would surely entertain you in various meanings of the word.】

Don't selfishly leave her in my care on your own accord.

And isn't she completely just threatening her by asking her to go to the chief's son if she doesn't like it?

【Postscript. The memories of my journey with you will stick with me forever. Thank you.】

Guessing that it's probably all with this postscript, I folded the letter and returned it to Malina.

"Malina, what are you going to do? Kannon said it like that but even if you don't come along with me, you can probably survive as Marina the Street Performer in this country and why not I just release you from slavery here? Since we seem to be from the same country, I'll even give you one month's worth of lodging fees."

Malina, who was still continuing to cry with her eyes bright red, shook her head.

" ... My mask please."

And asked for her mask.

I returned the mask to Malina.

Malina put on the mask and stood up straight before sitting down beside where I was seated.

“Ichino. I’ll tell you one thing. I am — Marina is an illusion created by Malina. Something like Multiple Personality Disorder.”

“I feel that it’s slightly different though.”

“Don’t mind that. We share the same memories but I want to love Malina like my mother while protecting her like my child. My true wish is for there to no longer be a need for me and for me to disappear.”

Marina spoke as if deprecating herself.

Suicidal thoughts ... no, it’s different huh?

Desire to disappear.

So she wishes for Malina to grow such that she is no longer required and that she can disappear huh?

That’s like a mother praying for the child to leave the nest.

“Ichino. So, I do not really intend to be all friendly with you. Since saying farewell would be tough. To be honest, I also drew a line with Kannon too. That’s why she only wrote Malina’s name in the letter while there was no message for me?”

“That seems to be the case if you say it that way.”

“Hence, I won’t fall in love with you. I’m a heroine that is impossible to capture.”

“I’ve never even once thought of you as a heroine.”

“Even though I’m like an older beauty?”

“I’ve also never once thought of you as someone older.”

“It’s sufficient as long as you think of me as a beauty.”

“Shit, so it was a leading question.”

I muttered and then laid down on the bed and laughed.

Haru and Carol are both good people and they are existences that are more

precious than my own life.

But, it's only possible to have such idiotic conversations with Marina.

"Ichino, I have one request."

Marina looked down towards me as I was lying on the bed and said.

"What is it?"

"I'll be in your care from now on too."

" ... Ah, best regards."

I said as I placed my arm forward while still lying on the bed.

Marina strongly gripped that hand.

I announced to Haru and Carol that Marina would once again continue with us in our adventure and the 4 of us enjoyed dinner together.

The dishes cooked using the magic sword kitchen knife was extremely tasty and it blew away the fatigue from yesterday's outdoor camping.

In that manner, the night in Dakyat grew late.

※ ※ ※

Side story Prelude to the destruction of Dakyat

“「Slash」! 「Grand Cross」! 「Lion's Roar」!”

Suzuki's techniques hit the monster herd directly.

But, the number of monsters didn't show any signs of decreasing.

"The situation will gradually get worse if this continues. 「Slash」 ... tch, my MP ... it's going to be bad soon. Miles, please."

After Kyanshi released the 「Slash」, she suddenly felt dizzy. She was about to run out of MP.

She requested for Miles to charge her MP.

"「Mana charge」!"

Miles doubled her own MP and sent it to Kyanshi.

It's one of her trump cards that she was bestowed as a bonus for conquering a labyrinth.

However, Miles was also an Apprentice Practitioner but her MP was definitely not a lot and she only had 3 mana potions.

Her words that the situation was going to gradually worsen was right on target.

” ... Curse of Thorns.”

By Schreyll's voice, shrubs with thorns appeared at the foot of the entrance to the labyrinth.

The thorny shrub entangled the monster's feet and prevented the monsters from exiting the labyrinth.

But, the monster herd climbed over the monsters that could no longer move with their feet tangled and escaped from the cave.

They were clearly moving towards the Southeast — aiming towards the direction of Ferruit.

“Kyanshi, ride on Pochi and inform the town of the danger.”

“But —”

“Please! We’ll also try to halt them here until the very last minute before escaping.”

” ... I understand.”

Schreyl’s 「Curse of Thorns」 was somewhat effective to stop the monsters in their tracks and Miles was required to replenish her MP.

Kyanshi understood that she was the most unnecessary one there.

That was extremely mortifying but she knew that someone had to go warn the town.

She straddled the Wyvern called Pochi who was standing by behind them and flew into the night sky.

Character Listing *Spoilers, excessive back stories*

Main characters

楠一之丞【Kusunoki Ichinosuke】/Ichinojo

Unemployed 20-year-old male. After the death of both his parents, he lived together with his younger sister Miri but he was kicked by a horse and passed away.

Then, by the power of Goddess Koshmar and Goddess Torerul, he was reincarnated in the parallel universe Otherworld.

He was given 2 blessings: 20x experience point acquisition and 1/20 required experience points.

Thanks to that, just by holding onto the Jobless job that nobody would usually notice, he was able to acquire many skills.

Though, he has a slight complex towards being Jobless.

Lately, I've been thinking if it was time to reveal why the Goddess made the mistake(?) of registering his name as Ichinojo in the status page.

Haurvatat/Haru

The White Wolf Race female Ichinosuke calls Haru. Because her father served in the Demon Lord's army, she was converted into a slave after the Demon Lord

was subjugated.

She dreamed of serving a master who has a stronger will than herself and she made the decision to live as Ichinosuke's slave after encountering Ichinosuke.

Having not only Dynamic Vision but also Action Prediction abilities that have reached the domain of experts, she can naturally evade attacks to a certain degree and also predict where a roulette ball will land the instant the ball is thrown.

That was how she raised havoc in the gambling parlor.

She was actually a reader when she was young and had read various books in the Demon Lord's castle so even though lately she's been hiding in Carol's shadows, she is reasonably knowledgeable.

A devotee of Goddess Setolance.

Carroll/Carol

Purple-haired girl who is a half between a hume (human) and a minihume (midget) and called Carol by Ichinosuke.

Falling into slavery after her ability as a Temptress bloomed and caused the death of both of her parents, she was constrained to staying inside a completely enclosed space at night.

For that reason, she closed off her heart but thanks to Ichinosuke's power,

she was released from the curse of the Temptress and she now follows and calls Ichinosuke Ichino-sama.

Because both her parents were peddlers, her only entertainment at night were books so she is more knowledgeable than Haru.

She herself has not noticed it but Carol's parents had apparently given her a pretty special Peddler education for gifted children so she can already pass off as a professional Peddler.

Initially, Ichino lied to her that Goddess Torerul was the one who changed her job but even now, she is still a devotee of Torerul.

桜真梨菜【Sakura Marina】/Malina/Marina

21-year-old former Japanese. By asking Torerul for an appropriate job, she obtained the ability as a Street Performer. However, being intensely shy, she had no way of surviving as a Street Performer, became penniless and fell into slavery after she was picked up by a slave merchant, there, she met Kannon.

Under the effect of the mask that treats shyness (a lie) given by Kannon, another personality called Marina is born whenever she puts on the mask.

Marina is a self-proclaimed Archmage who fabricates magic spells using Street Performer techniques to the delight of many of the audience and sometimes acts as the accomplice to Kannon's fraudulent businesses. Of course, she is not aware of the fact that Kannon is actually a member of the Devil race.

In order to perform her job as a member of the Devil race, Kannon left Malina

in Ichinosuke's care.

Marina cherishes Malina and wishes that, for Malina's sake, one day Malina would no longer need her and she would be able to disappear.

Fuyun

A horse-type monster called White Horse.

The male white horse bought by Haru. He is not attached to anybody aside from Haru but does not attack people due to Haru's orders.

Ichinosuke was the person who named Fuyun.

Goddesses

Koshmar

One of the Pillar Goddesses who created the opportunity for Ichinosuke to travel to the parallel universe Otherworld.

As said by Ichinosuke, a Goddess with stout stature like an Orc. According to the Goddess herself, she can freely transform her physique but apparently keeps that figure because she likes it.

As the Goddess of Growth and Abundant Harvest, many farmers and fledgling adventurers have faith in her.

For that reason, many of the Beginner Labyrinths have her statue placed within.

Torerul

One of the Pillar Goddesses who created the opportunity for Ichinosuke to travel to the parallel universe Otherworld. Goddess of Pleasure.

With a child figure with twin tail hairstyle, due to the influence of the doujinshi written by Daijiro, she actually has a large number of core fans.

As she feels that it is good to live happily, she lives at quite her own pace.

In addition, she also has another side as the Goddess of Gambling and not a negligible amount of people hold her hand before going to the gambling parlor.

Setolance

Goddess with the appearance of a Valkyrie. Goddess of Battle and Victory.

Warriors who love to fight believe in her.

JofrEli

Jofre

Male Apprentice Swordsman. Self-proclaimed Swordsman and Hero.

Lives pretty positively. Has always been together with Elise.

Lived in Florence and was a problem child that everybody knew.

Believed Kannon on the legendary equipment armor and sword and wears them.

Also, he seems to have known Daijiro a long time ago and was given the Friendship Ring that is a magic tool capable of forming instant parties.

And has a mysterious jewel and an item bag.

Elise

Whip-user girl. Self-proclaimed Monster Tamer and Monster Master.

Similar to Jofre, lives pretty positively. Has always been together with Jofre.

Similar to Jofre, causes nothing but trouble and always troubling everyone from the Vigilante corps.

Even though her actions are foolish, she actually has completed her studies and apart from reading and writing, she also knows a lot.

That conversely raises other questions.

Centaur

A donkey from the race of Slow Donkeys purchased by Jofre and Elise.

Faithful to its appetite, just by eating grass, it is capable of knowing the condition of the earth and the weather, even as far as knowing the type of nearby monsters, a Grass Meister.

However, because it is not interested in that, it merely continues to eat grass.

After ending up eating the Rare Medal that Jofre and Elise had, it has now acquired strength comparable to a Minotaur.

It also has the mysterious aspect of it being not affected by Carol's Temptress job.

Heroes who subjugated the Demon Lord

Alessio Magnal

12 years ago, the hero who subjugated the Demon Lord when he was 14 years old together with the Magician Hack and the Magic Engineer Daijiro.

In honor of his achievements, he was allowed to live in Kyupilas Cathedral. He was also offered peerage but he declined.

He thinks that he is under house arrest in essence and wants to go on a journey once again.

At that time, he found out that one corner of the seal of the Demon Lord has collapsed and set off on a journey together with Hack.

Hack

Magician who subjugated the Demon Lord 12 years ago together with Alessio. Calls Alessio Aleo.

12 years ago he was proud of his long hair but due to an incident that happened when he was conducting magical research, he is now bald.

Even now, his hair still continues to work as a cleaning tool in his magic workshop.

Daijiro/Big Second

Magic Engineer who subjugated the Demon Lord 12 years ago together with Alessio.

As a former Japanese, he has created many items. Items representative of him are the item bag carried by Ichinosuke and the Friendship Ring Jofre has.

For some reason, he is active in the doujinshi circle using his pen name Big Second and had scattered many of his works but because of the doujinshi he wrote about Torerul, all the doujinshi were burned.

However, in consideration of the noble ladies, only BL works are still present in the public market.

Self-proclaimed Heroes

鈴木浩太 (Suzuki Kota)

Former Japanese and self-proclaimed hero. Male Holy Warrior.

Summoned to the parallel universe and saved many people as if the male protagonist of an otherworld fantasy.

Travels together with 3 girls but due to reasons is not able to touch any of them, a virgin.

For that reason, he comforts himself with the prohibited item called doujinshi.

Believes in his own thinking quite intensely and saw Ichinosuke as an enemy but the misunderstanding was cleared and they became friends.

Miles

Practitioner who serves Kota. Is actually the Pope's granddaughter.

Kidnapped by xxx for the sake of a certain secret of the Pope, she was saved by Kota as she was about to have a slave collar placed onto her.

At that time, she received a revelation from the Goddess that Kota should be the master she serves so she decided to do so.

Incidentally, that voice was actually not the voice of a Goddess but the prank by a Spirit but she is unaware of that.

Because she believes in the folklore that nuns will not be able to listen to the voice of God if they are not a virgin, she has not crossed the line with Kota.

Kyanshi

Former female gladiator. Believing in the promise that she would attain freedom with 1000 wins in the arena, she really achieved 1000 wins using a certain skill.

However, the upper management of the organization did not think well of her no kills victories and instead of releasing her, they threw her into a bind when they had her participate with just a single stick in the underground arena sword fighting contest that was not for fighting but for the viewing pleasure of slaughter.

Even if she fought well, it was impossible to win with a single stick and when she was about to die, Kota who had infiltrated the place saved her.

After that, when the 2 of them were the last to remain, they both fought with a single wooden stick each and the result was that Kyanshi lost.

Kota bought Kyanshi from the destroyed underground organization with a single sense.

By the law of the clan, the man who takes her virginity will be her lifetime companion so she has not crossed the line with Kota.

Schreyl

Descendant of a clan that defends the legendary sword. After completing their role by bestowing the legendary sword to Alessio, they should have become a clan that serves to protect the jewels that seal the Demon Lord.

However, they were attacked by bandits and Schreyl as well as her brother, the only person who knew of the whereabouts of the jewels, were kidnapped.

Kota rescued Schreyl but due to the death of her brother as well as the violence from the bandits, Schreyl lost her voice.

But, during the journey with companions, Schreyl gradually opened her heart, regained her voice and looks up to Kota as though he is her real brother.

Even so, she extremely hates getting touched by men other than Kota and even if it's Kota, having her naked body seen would cause her to tremble with a blue face.

For that reason, she has not crossed the line with Kota.

Pochi

A Wyvern that was about to be subjugated by Kota.

It decided to obey Kota after losing to him and holding admiration to his strength.

When asked for a name, Kota named it Pochi in the spur of the moment with his bad naming sense so the 3 girls also slightly pity the Wyvern.

It stands out a lot but apparently, they have a certain method to keep Pochi hidden.

Secret Society Massacre

Julio

Founding president of the Secret Society Massacre.

As a son of a locksmith, he's a master at opening locks.

Has the strange fate of being the nephew of the leader of the band of thieves Jofre and Elise worked in for but a single day.

Sutchino

Staff officer of the Secret Society Massacre. Son of the tavern owner.

Considerable miser.

Capable of betraying companions to a certain acceptable degree for the sake of money.

Milky

Childhood female friend of Julio and Sutchino.

Does propagation work by printmaking BL doujinshi under the name Pinky Pants.

Loves and respects Daijiro's works and one of the Second Children who has been affected by him.

In addition, she is a delusional girl who finds the figure of 2 men talking as tasty as eating rice.

But, she is the owner of amazing skills as a Magic Journalist.

Demon Lord Army

Famiris•Rariti

Demon who appeared 200 years ago and became the Demon Lord.

Subjugated by Alessio 12 years ago and was sealed.

Kannon

Former owner of Malina. Her true identity is that of a demon race.

Magic Sword Craftsman who has reached the peak of Alchemy and Blacksmith.

Sells the sword, armor and staff made by herself at exorbitant prices using fraudulent business techniques.

Cares deeply for Malina.

Valf

Third general of the Demon Lord's army. His true form is that of a vampire.

Calls himself an Earl but he was actually a Baron when he was still human.

Looks down on humans as chess pieces and tries to reaffirm that he himself is a unique existence by manipulating humans to accomplish something.

And thinks of it as the fault of the human if the strategy fails without reflecting on it at all.

However, his strength as a Vampire is the real deal and possesses power close to immortality.

Others

Kusunoki Miri (楠ミリ)

Younger sister who looks up to Ichinosuke as 'Onii'.

Famous as a stock trader and has quite considerable wealth.

After Ichinosuke's death, she identified the cause of this death and set off for Mount Fuji to travel to the Otherworld.

Owner of many mysteries.

Norn

A Vigilante corps girl who was rescued by Ichinosuke when she was kidnapped by bandits.

She wanted to accompany Ichinosuke but after hearing the sounds of nightlife he had with Haurvatat, her determination faltered.

Even so, lately, she has only been having delusions of 'What if I traveled together with him?' and has been neglecting her work, causing her colleagues to scold her.

Name: Ichinojo Race: Hume

Job: Jobless Lv79 (8↑) Apprentice Blacksmith Lv12 (11↑) Apprentice Alchemist Lv37 (29↑)

Alchemist Lv29 (29↑) Magician Lv32 (19↑)

HP: 267/267 (10+41+59+72+61) (x1.1) (244↓)

MP: 513/513 (8+32+92+141+194) (x1.1) (403↑)

Phy Atk: 307 (9+50+61+84+52) (x1.2) (513↓)

Phy Def: 266 (7+46+69+81+63) (x1.1) (320↓)

Mag Atk: 605 (4+38+129+191+243) (468↑)

Mag Def: 586 (3+21+141+164+204) (x1.1) (440↑)

Speed: 224 (4+29+52+64+55) (x1.1) (471↓)

Luck: 55 (10+10+10+10+10) (x1.1) (11↓)

【Equipment】

Cotton Clothes Hide Shoes Iron Light Armor Steel Sword

【Skills】

「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (medium)」 「Dual Wield」

【Acquired Titles】

「Rare Hunter」 「Skill Maniac」 「Job Maniac」 「Labyrinth Conqueror III」 「Peak of Apprentice Swordsman」 「Peak of Apprentice Magician」 「Peak of Hunter」

【Possible Job Changes】

Jobless Lv79 Commoner Lv73 Farmer Lv1 Hunter Lv60★

Lumberjack Lv14 Apprentice Swordsman Lv40★ Apprentice Magician Lv40★
Peddler Lv6

Apprentice Spearman Lv1 Swordsman Lv34 Archer Lv1 Apprentice Alchemist
Lv37

Magician Lv32 Axe-user Lv1 Hammer-user Lv10 Pugilist Lv34

Philanderer Lv16 Magic Journalist Lv1 Apprentice Practitioner Lv25 Magic
Swordsman Lv1

Dismantler Lv16 Apprentice Blacksmith Lv12 Alchemist Lv29 Practitioner Lv1

Musician Lv1 Singer Lv1 Dancer Lv1 Artist Lv1

【Blessings】

20x experience point acquisition

1/20 required experience points

○ Organized Skills

Status Up

「HP Strengthening (minor)」 「MP Strengthening (minor)」 「Physical Attack Strengthening (small)」 「Physical Defence Strengthening (minor)」 「Speed Strengthening (minor)」 「Accuracy Correction (minor)」 「Luck Strengthening (minor)」 「Fist Attack II」 「Dexterity UP (small)」

Equipment-based

「Bow and Arrow Equip」 「Cane Equip II」 「Axe Equip」 「Flute Equip」 「Card Equip」 「Hammer Equip」 「Mace Equip」

Magic-based

「Fire Magic II」 「Water Magic II」 「Earth Magic II」 「Wind Magic II」 「Lightning Magic II」 「Ice Magic II」 「Darkness Magic」 「Light Magic」 「Healing Magic II」 「Lifestyle Magic II」 「Shield Magic」

Combat skills

「Throwing」 「Presence Detection II」 「Concussive Strike」

Support skills

「Heal II」 「Magical Power Boost」

Production skills

「Logging II」 「Dismantling III」 「Alchemy II」 「Smithing」 「Metal Smelting II」
「Magic Metal Fusion」 「Disassemble」 「Inscription」

Appraisal-based

「Skill Description」 「Job Appraisal II」 「Food・Mineral・Metal・Monster Material Appraisal」

Others

「5th Job Setting」 「Job Modification」 「Skill Organization」 「2nd Job Setting II」
「Sword Deterioration Prevention」 「Job Organization」 「Hawk Eye」 「Common Language Comprehension」